Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Escalona Comments on New U.S. Administration

FL2201030193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Today, Cuban National Assembly President Juan Escalona Reguera was asked at an impromptu news conference about the outlook for the U.S. hostile policy against Cuba after the inauguration of Bill Clinton. In this regard, Escalona stated that Cuba does not cherish any hope that Washington's policy towards Cuba will change with the new President. He added that it will not be worse because it is impossible for Clinton to be more aggressive, hardline, and arrogant than former President George Bush was towards Cuba. Escalona also spoke of Cuba's democratic effort and the legislative electoral process that is currently underway, as well as the efforts made to overcome the great economic difficulties that Cuba is facing.

Likewise, Escalona denied our country's alleged political isolation. He pointed out that he was not in Bolivia to ask for solidarity but that his visit was the consequence of many years of solidarity, which has existed in the past and is continuing. Juan Escalona spoke to the press after a meeting with Luis Ossio and Gaston Encinas, the presidents of the Bolivian Senate and Chamber of Deputies, respectively; and Senator Guillermo Fortun on the second day of his visit to Bolivia.

Foreign Minister Alarcon Interview

FL2001021093 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0305 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada by Pedro Martinez Pirez at the Foreign Ministry; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] First of all, Alarcon, what are Cuba's foreign policy priorities for 1993? It does not look like it will be a very easy year for Latin American and Third World countries in general.

[Alarcon] I would say the country's foreign policy [words indistinct] is a continuation of domestic policy. Therefore, our policy must be to move day to day [words indistinct] the great national effort that our people are making at an especially difficult time for our country. This means doing abroad what our people are doing every day at home to save the nation, the Revolution, and to overcome material difficulties.

We are facing at this time, as everyone knows, all the results of a situation of double embargo, the U.S. embargo which is being intensified and extended at this time [words indistinct] our country is also facing very specific and special problems as a result of the situation which has been created in East Europe: the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the disappearance of the agreements, the (?principles) of Cuban relations with this area of the world in the past. This means that for our Foreign Ministry and our embassies, the main thing in 1993 is to continue the fight against the U.S. embargo in all spheres.

In the sphere of political denunciation, we will to continue to advance based on what we achieved in 1992 at the UN General Assembly. This year the Assembly will reexamine the embargo against Cuba, now based on a report which the UN secretary general should give next (?autumn) about compliance with the resolution the Assembly approved last year. The resolution, as everyone remembers, clearly showed the isolation of the United States (?in that forum). Only two countries in the entire world [words indistinct] voted against the resolution which the Assembly approved.

Of course, fighting the embargo also means improving the work of our ministry and embassies in promoting our country's foreign relations in the political/diplomatic sense as well as in trade and the economy, supporting the important tasks our country is carrying out in these fields. Of course, we must also contribute to the vast, profound, broad solidarity movement with Cuba which is evident throughout the world and which is expressed in many ways. For me, in a brief summary, that would be the (?work) of our ministry in the coming year.

[Martinez] It is said abroad that Cuba is isolated, but the Cuban foreign minister has just said that vote at the United Nations on a resolution condemning the economic embargo of more than 30 years against Cuba has truly reflected the isolation of the United States regarding this issue of the embargo against Cuba. Alarcon, is Cuba really isolated?

[Alarcon] I would say Cuba is not isolated. Cuba is truly in the center, very much in the center, the heart of the world, and this will become even more so. In the United Nations, in the international organizations in general, when people can express their preferences with complete freedom and clarity, they express sympathy with Cuba in the most unequivocal way. Last year, when Cuba was elected a member of the UN Economic and Social Council, which is one of its major bodies, Cuba obtained one of the highest numbers of votes, but that was in a secret vote. The great sympathy and great support we have from most of the members of that organization was made very evident. When the elections are secret, we have no doubt that not only are we not isolated, but we also have very strong support which expresses the real sympathy that the representatives of the vast majority of the world's governments feel towards us, without exception, from all geographic regions.

But the resolution on the embargo has tremendous importance because the voting on the resolution was open. Everyone knows how each country voted, what position each country took. There was no opportunity to discreetly express support for Cuba. Even so, the vast majority of those that voted, voted in favor of our

resolution, and the United States found only two countries in the entire world—out of 180 UN members—that dared to vote publicly with them and reject our resolution. Of course, another reality must not be covered up; that is, the large number of countries that did not vote in favor of the resolution. They abstained or they left the room, but they did so openly. That is, we know who abstained and who left. This was a way of not supporting the United States in its attempt to get the resolution rejected. I do not think there is the slightest doubt that this vote showed how isolated the United States is in its policy of trying to isolate Cuba. This has been said by important U.S. figures, that that had been the main result of that vote. However, I think that [words indistinct] the world, and not just governments but nongovernmental organizations, institutions, and people as well, all over the world, are increasingly looking upon Cuba, upon Cuba's current struggle, upon what Cuba represents, as something that belongs to each and every one of them.

Definitely, Cuba today represents a small nation's effort to assert its independence and sovereignty vis-a-vis the most excessive pressures and under the most difficult conditions. This principle—the possibility for a small country to follow its own path, to confront the greatest obstacles, to confront a truly criminal policy such as that embodied by the embargo, and to be able to resist and progress through its own efforts—is very important for all other small countries, for all other nations that would also like to attain and consolidate their own independence.

So it is not just a matter of how important it might be—and, in fact, is—to us. Rather, for many people, for millions of people around the world, Cuba represents a number of cardinal principles. For Latin Americans, for example, Cuba represents the potential value of Latin American national independence—non-intervention, the equality of nations—principles that are essential to the survival not just of Cuba but of Latin America itself. Furthermore, for many people Cuba represents an aspiration that is legitimate and that is not going to disappear. On the contrary, it is now growing, in this new world whose outline is beginning to emerge. This is an aspiration for justice.

Millions of people all over the planet, including in the rich countries, are struggling, demanding the right not to die unprotected, the right to have medical care, the right to have their children and parents be protected by society and to be treated when they fall ill, etc.; the right of children to have a happy life, to get an education, to have opportunities in a world in which, as some American statistics very recently showed, one out of every four American children is living below the poverty line. Of course, the majority of these are black and Latino children. But there are millions of them. That percentage in the United States means millions of people who are naturally going to make demands and aspire to conditions of justice and equality that Cuba already represents today. Furthermore, Cuba represents this with great dignity, because to maintain the achievements our people have made in this domain means doing so at a high cost, at the cost of enormous sacrifices, at the cost of having to confront all the hostility and all the might of the world's greatest power.

Cuba also represents what is perhaps mankind's oldest aspiration—at least in our Western and Christian culture, let us say—which is the affirmation of certain spiritual values. Our society is ultimately based on human solidarity. What is the neoconservative model that they want to impose in the world based on? It is based on the profit motive, individual selfishness, and pettiness. It is a materialistic conception of life. That is what brutal, Reaganite capitalism has tried to impose on the entire world. What does Cuba embody, if not the deep conviction that the great utopia of humanity, of being able to have a society where men can be brothers? This is the aspiration that lies in the foundation of our culture, and we could say it is the message of Christ.

This is an aspiration that people are not going to give up. Why would you want to live in a society that ignores human beings, a society that does not concern itself with children or the elderly, a society that only concerns itself with individual selfishness? This motivation, which is the motivation of capitalism, is the one that Cuba rejects. They want to impose it on us as if it were the only model, the model that is being imposed on the whole planet [words indistinct] rejects it, and we proudly present ours. It has difficulties, it has limitation, it has shortages, it has all the problems that we know about, but it is a profoundly humanist society, a society that is incomparably more humane because it is one of solidarity, because it is based on collective effort, mutual aid, and the sacrifices of everyone. But it is based on a common aspiration of developing a society that is ultimately founded on human solidarity. This is ultimately the oldest, deepest moral aspiration of our culture, and it is not going to disappear. That is why many people see Cuba as belonging to them, and defending Cuba is not only supporting a friend, but is saving something that is essential for millions and millions of people who are not Cuban.

[Martinez] Nevertheless, Alarcon, the propaganda against Cuba abroad bases a large part of its information on alleged violations of human rights in Cuba and the absence of representative democracy. I would like to hear your impressions, your opinion, and your reflections on the observance of human rights in Cuba and the democratic nature of the Cuban system.

[Alarcon] Obviously, this is an old debate, which has a lot to do with what is understood by human rights, what is understood by democracy. Above all, one must point out one thing, Pedro. This is an attempt to distort, to represent this in a way that does not correspond to reality in the major media, the great vehicles of international publicity. (?It is printed in) newspapers that millions of people cannot read, in the world, not in Cuba but in other countries where they are published, there are millions of people who do not know how to read the

campaigns against Cuba, and unfortunately they also cannot read our own version, we could say. But there are millions of people who although they know how to read do not have the cents, or in some cases the dollars, to buy a newspaper because they lack the most elemental things of life, which are the rights which are ultimately essential for human beings, such as the right to life, to a job, to work, to a possible life. Although these are rights that do not appear in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, they appear in the San Francisco Charter.

If we look at these rights, we can say that not only are human rights not violated in Cuba, as is said in some media, but rather there are very few UN members—including Cuba—that cannot be legitimately accused of violating the rights in the UN Charter. In the United States there is absolutely no respect for the right to a job, the right to a life, an opportunity to participate in the life of society, which is an obligation the United States took on when it signed the San Francisco Charter. If we look at the social dimension, the most deeply human dimension of human rights, we would think that in many places the most basic right is denied, which is the right to life. In this country, we have reduced the infant mortality rate to an impressive extent. Today Cuba is among the most advanced countries on Earth.

That seems to be just a statistic, that we lowered our infant mortality rate by several tenths from last year to today, but behind each tenth there are children who today are alive and that would not be alive today if our rates were like those of the past. Has anyone calculated how many thousands and thousands of children that are brought to die every day by societies that deny them the slightest opportunity and the most basic right, which is the right to live? How many thousands and thousands, hundreds of thousands, of children who are alive today because there was a Revolution in Cuba? They would have died years ago if they had been so unfortunate as to be born in any other country.

[Martinez] This is so. According to the UNESCO figures, Cuba has managed through advances in public health, in infant mortality, to have 77 more children lived in 1992. If Cuba's infant mortality rate, which is currently 10.2 per 1,000 live births, held true in all of Latin America, it would mean that more than 500,000 Latin American children would be alive and not dead.

[Alarcon] Of course, we can talk about many other aspects of the right to a job, to health care, to education, rights that are basic and for which people are concerned, for which people struggle, for which people even die throughout the world. But in addition to this, in the campaign against Cuba, they try to present us as if this country violated human rights in the sense of restricting them. That is, when they talk in the major media of human rights, they are thinking above all about individual rights and they ignore economic and social rights [words indistinct] civil and political rights.

I think the best proof that this campaign is nothing but lies and slanders is the fact that its very creators cannot even accuse us of great violations of those individual rights. For example, that man who was appointed special rapporteur for human rights in Cuba presented a report which was based, as he himself said, exclusively on references, allegations, from some Cuban groups residing in Miami or Spain, groups that certainly—as our UN delegation showed with official U.S. documentation—obtain financing from the U.S. Government, precisely to carry out these campaigns against Cuba.

Based on the testimony or allegations of those people, and only on that, they still cannot accuse this country of practicing torture. They cannot present cases that show a practice of flagrant systematic violation of those individual rights of people, because even those who slander us, who exaggerate, give distorted figures, and invent cases that do not exist, cannot, in their propagandistic hoax, put Cuba in a position that even slightly resembles situations—which are well known and have been part of UN history—of flagrant, massive, and systematic human rights violations.

Furthermore, Pedro, some time ago I was reading a report from West Europe about countries that are very quick to vote against a Third World country on a human rights issue. This report, which is very interesting, stated how from last year to this there had been an increase in reports of specific, individual cases of violations of these personal rights. I am not going to name countries, but anyone who saw a list of these countries would be amazed, because there are some that have very clean reputations on this issue, and nevertheless there are people in Europe who can point out hundreds of cases, hundreds of situations, in these countries. They talk so much about this issue, but they would have so much material for self-analysis. This is not even to mention the United States, where there are tens of millions of people who are deprived of all the rights contained in the UN Charter or the Universal Declaration for their protection.

I think it is also clear that there is an enormous campaign against Cuba. There is a real war against Cuba, which is expressed in all (?fields), from the economic embargo to this systematic campaign to try to distort Cuba's image. Why? Because what the United States tries to reduce the support and sympathy our nation has because it deserves it—because our people heroically represent and embody values that belong to everyone—by showing Cuba, presenting Cuba hypocritically as what it is not, trying to reduce and limit that movement, which no one will be able to stop, of sympathy and defense of the Cuban Revolution and what Cuba means to the world today.

All this is also promoted by the same country that (?produced) Batista in Cuba, which trained his hit-men, which trained his torturers, and then welcomed them with open arms in Miami, where some of them still live, talking about human rights in Cuba, talking about the supposed lack of democracy in Cuba. These are people who have on their consciences the lives of hundreds of

Cuban young people they murdered with techniques they learned in Washington. What moral authority does the United States have to talk about human rights anywhere, let alone in Cuba? Of course, this is the same country that annihilated millions of people with atomic bombs or annihilated a nation or a large part of a nation in Vietnam, and has promoted all kinds of counterrevolutionary wars throughout the globe. They also installed in Latin America the most famous tyrants who killed many people, who made thousands of people disappear, who have not yet reappeared, in some South American countries. In short, they became the rawest expression of the denial of any rights of human beings. In addition, against Cuba, the United States today, right now, for more than 30 years, continues to violate the human rights of each and every Cuban, patriotic and revolutionary Cubans—who are the vast majority in this country—and also even the individual rights of those who do not support the Revolution. They do so through the economic embargo, through the cruel difficulties they have caused for millions of Cubans by depriving them of necessary medicines, by making their daily lives more difficult, by really subjecting them to a kind of torture, with an aim that is abhorrent, which is to restore over this country the domination the United States exerted over Cuba for many years.

Also (?what kind of) democracy is it? Representative democracy. All democracy has to be representative, at least in the modern world. We are no longer living in the time of the [words indistinct] Greek cities where the citizens—the free citizens, not the slaves—gathered in the square and elected their representatives, discussed their problems, etc. Societies are more complex, societies have grown, and they have to delegate this to someone, select someone to represent them. Thus, representative democracy is not the legacy, we could say, of certain countries, which is the impression sometimes given in their rhetoric.

I would say our democracy is the most representative of all, because ours is also the closest to that original Greek democracy. As you know, here the residents of our communities meet. We discuss our problems. We choose the candidates from among whom we will then elect our delegates, our representatives. We have done this in tens of thousands of assemblies throughout this country. As you know, we elect the municipal assemblies, which are made up of people all of whom were selected by their own comrades, their own neighbors, district by district, village by village, region by region, throughout the country. Approximately half of these people will also be candidates for provincial delegates and national deputies in the elections we will have on 24 February.

I do not know of any other country on the globe where the people below select those who will be the candidates to represent them. This means ordinary people, people like you see in your own neighborhood, people who are going to continue to be ordinary people after they are elected or not elected, participate in the government bodies, the legislative bodies, at all levels. In many places where they talk about a lot of democracy, really to be a candidate you do not need the endorsement of the people below. You only need to have enough money to pay for television ads, to hire people to conduct your campaign, and to promote your candidacy just as a kind of soap or detergent or any consumer product is promoted.

This has now reached the point where they have reported, as was recently done in the United States, on the hundreds of millions of dollars it cost someone to run for senator, state governor, or President of the Republic. Of course, that investment, as we could call it, is much more costly. Where does that money come from? From the residents, from the people below? No, it comes from the corporations, the big companies, which do not invest on a whim. They are not accustomed to wasting their money. If they give it to a candidate, it is so that the candidate will remember that favor once he is in the legislature. This explains many things in many so-called democracies.

The best example occurred in the United States. There are the two famous parties which everyone talks about, which are mentioned in the major media. No one talks about some black candidates. No one talks about some black women who have run for president (?from New York). There was a woman from Harlem who did not have money to pay for television ads. No one talks about the so-called minority candidates, which are not even considered candidates by the so- democratic major media. It only occurred to one person in that whole country to say: I am a candidate because I have decided to be one, even though I do not belong to the great political machines. That was Ross Perot, who is a multimillionaire. So only a multimillionaire can say: I am going to allocate $60 million to buy television ads, to hire people throughout the country to write in my candidacy, etc. So there can be independent candidates, if they are millionaires. There are more than 250 million people in the United States who would never dream of running as an independent candidate. No one would pay any attention to them. No one would realize who they were, because they are not millionaires.

Democracy continues to mean government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I must say, although I do not want to seem arrogant in this sense, that I do not know of any other model that is more democratic than the society in which I am proud to live. In the first place, because nowhere else is there so much participation by the people, from the selection of the candidates to participation in the elections themselves and afterwards. A very important thing is the monitoring of the elected person's activities through a principle we have in our country, which we should improve and continue to develop in the future, which is the report-back meeting. There are men, famous U.S. senators, who never go back to report back to those who elected them. They get the votes through more or less legitimate means, but the only alternative for someone who is dissatisfied with the one they elected is to wait for four

years to see if another millionaire who is more accessible will run against that current millionaire senator. In our case, as you know, each of those elected has to answer, has to account to those who elected him, and there is the principle of removal in the event that for some reason the people who elected you do not think you should continue to represent them. I think this is a principle that also brings us nearer to that original Greek democracy.

But more important than all that, I think the primary definition of the word "democracy," which was originally a Greek word, was given by Pericles. He said it was government to benefit the majority. I do not have the slightest doubt that since 1959, for the first and only time in its history, Cuba has had a government that works for the good of the majority of Cubans. Therefore, it is a profoundly and deeply democratic regime. Democracy has never been seen as a formality, as complying with certain formal rituals that give the appearance that the people are participating. The important thing is that the people really participate in the institutional processes, and that in addition what comes out of those processes is a government that benefits the people.

[Martinez] Nevertheless, it is said that with a single party, Cuba cannot be genuinely democratic and representative, Alarcon.

[Alarcon] On one occasion, former President Carter, in a lecture he gave at Harvard, which I read, said that in the United States there was really only one party, the party of the incumbents, the party of those who dominate the media, who are elected and re-elected to their legislative seats, or those who from the other apparatus, the other electoral machine, also millionaires, try to replace them. Ordinary Americans cannot be found anywhere.

In Cuba there is a single party, as there has been since Jose Marti ran up against the first and most painful experience of the war the people waged for 10 years, their first war for independence. Jose Marti found that the divisions between Cubans, the divisions between patriots, had been a fundamental factor in that painful experience Cuba went through, and no one else in Latin America did. Cuba had the longest war for independence, and it culminated in failure. It culminated in a tragic defeat for our people. From this, Marti took the lesson of the need, the historic obligation of revolutionaries to unite in a single party, and he created it. Fidel Castro fortunately resumed that experience with the 1959 Revolution. That is why we have a single party, which is the only organization that gathers together all revolutionaries to defend our Revolution, our nation, and to advance in Marti's [words indistinct].

That is why the party does not choose the candidates. The party does not decide whether you are going to be the delegate from your district or whether I am going to be. It is the people, all the people in the street, district by district, in tens of thousands of assemblies, who freely and openly chose who the candidates would be. There are countries where there is more than one party, but none of them does that. None of them invite the people in the street to say who they want to represent them. I think some things are confused here. Our party is the organization of the vanguard of the revolutionaries, the patriots, but it is not a party in the electoral sense. It is not a group, a machine, that tries to take over the people's rights. It is not the party that decides, selects, promotes, and finally imposes the candidate, and then the people have no choice but to vote for one candidate or another.

I think that naturally one must respect, and we respect, and I personally respect, each system. I do not want to say that ours is the only democratic system. There are societies where there is more than one party, there are societies that are not revolutionary like ours, and that have democratic forms that are different from ours. What I do refuse to accept is that I should be embarrassed, that I should have to justify myself, that I should have to acknowledge the slightest doubt regarding our system. I think that our critics should first try to undergo our experiences, apply them to their countries, apply the principle that the people choose the candidates, apply the principle that those elected report back to their voters. If they did this, they would be in a better position to criticize us. We have no reason to be embarrassed or ashamed about our system.

[Martinez] Ricardo Alarcon spoke a minute, or some minutes, ago about the priorities of Cuban foreign policy. Is not the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States also among those priorities?

[Alarcon] Cuba has always been willing to have normal relations with the United States. But normal relations can only be understood based on respect for international standards and principles. U.S. hostility is abnormal. The embargo is abnormal. All the aggressivity of the United States against this country since the triumph of the Revolution is abnormal. We are not going to make the slightest concession on principles, the slightest concession towards a country that is acting illegally. Normal relations between Cuba and the United States can begin to develop starting from the moment the United States complies with international laws; that is, based on treating Cuba as a sovereign, independent state. There is a basic principle that has to be the foundation, the absolutely unmovable keystone of any normalization. This is that the United States must be willing to treat Cuba based on the recognition of Cuba's independence and the equality of rights (?of both countries). We could be in a position to normalize our relations on this basis, but not on any other basis.

[Martinez] Twelve years of Republican administrations have shown perhaps....[rephrases] I think U.S. domestic policy led to Bush's defeat. I think this also involves in some sense, according to some analysts, a defeat for the neoconservative policy and also for the policy of embargo and hostility against Cuba. Can one see from Havana or Latin America, which is the South, looking towards the North, the United States, any possibility for

a new era, a new time, a new stage, in the relations of Latin American and Cuba with the United States, with the new administration?

[Alarcon] We would have to wait for the new administration to take office, first; to become familiar with the people who will be charged with executing the policy towards Latin America. I think that our continent, our America, has a right to hope that one day the United States will establish a policy of genuine good neighborliness, which will be based on respect for the rights of all our nations. I think that this will happen some day. I am not in a position to predict whether this will happen with this administration which will take office in Washington or later.

I think that the most important thing for Latin America is to recognize and support its own identity. Latin America has a historic mandate for integration and unity, not only in the economic sense, not only in the cultural sense, but also in the political sense. We are a region in the world with exceptional characteristics, with a common history, a common culture, the same language, the same traditions, but also a unitary tradition. From the first, our great patriots advocated a great Latin American unity, the great common Latin American nation, beginning with Simon Bolivar. In contrast, the trend in other parts of the world...[rephrases] in Europe, which spent centuries with one part warring against another, has nevertheless succeeded in progressing towards economic integration and is approaching political unity [words indistinct] Latin America, which does not have a past of dissension and fratricidal fighting but the opposite [words indistinct] Latin America cannot achieve the needed pace, the needed speed, to make progress in something that all Latin Americans have always said and read that we share, which is the ideal of the common nation.

To the extent that we progress in that direction, Pedro, we will become more respected. To the extent that Latin America is unified and moving towards true integration in all spheres, our neighbors near and far will have to respect us, and we can really fulfill what should be the great aspiration, the great historic goal, of our people.

[Martinez] To a certain degree, it could be thought that the presence of Latin America in the voting on the UN resolution condemning the embargo against Cuba is an extremely important event on the path towards that necessary Latin American solidarity. But there is also the solidarity on other issues. For example, right now the banana-growing countries are being attacked by measures that are going to be applied against them, and they have called for an urgent summit of presidents to be held in February in San Jose or Quito. I would like to hear your thoughts about these dramatic difficulties. Not only the banana producers but also the sugar producers....[rephrases] All Latin American countries depend on basic products and are being encouraged in the policy of opening their markets, but they are being confronted with protectionism by the rich countries.

[Alarcon] I remember very vividly the speech by President Calderon at the Ibero-American Summit in Madrid. At that time [words indistinct] were together, our delegations were together at that time. The placement in the seats was rotated, but at that time we were sitting together, and he really made a deep impression with his statements about this discriminatory attitude against Latin American bananas in Europe, in the EC. I think that he said a great truth. On the one hand, they try to impose an economic model of openness, liberalization, markets, etc. on the South to facilitate the entry of capital from the North, we could say, in fact. [Words indistinct] however, the rich countries are not so liberal in their economic policies. They know how to protect their interests, but they do this in a selfish way. What is happening to the banana-exporting countries is felt by those of us that export sugar. This is the drama of each and every one of the countries of the South. We are facing international economic relations based on selfishness, based on petty ambitions and the domination of the rich over the poor. This shows the absence of international solidarity. I think this would be one of the major aspects of the needed joint action of Latin America. Although Cuba is not a banana-exporting country [words indistinct] belongs to the group of countries [words indistinct] for Cuba the defense of the legitimate interests of those Latin American brothers is very important, just as it should be important for others to defend the legitimate interests of each and every one of our countries that depend on certain exports that are discriminated against and face protectionism by the powerful countries, that have to compete under really unfair conditions.

In addition, we find ourselves forced to purchase products and goods that come from those industrialized countries in conditions in which the terms of trade are so unequal that they really prevent the development of our nations, and make it extremely difficult. By the way, this disregards the fundamental rights of every man and woman in the South.

I think this initiative, this idea of that meeting of the banana-exporting countries, can be an important contribution to this effort and of course we view on it with all sympathy and the most sincere desire that it will be useful in implementing this effort to defend this legitimate interests of certain Latin American countries.

[Martinez] Foreign Minister Alarcon, you attended the Nonaligned Movement Summit in Jakarta. One of the issues that was presented there very forcefully and that is present in the policies of different Latin American nations is the need to democratize the United Nations and also to defend the most important principles of the UN Charter, which lately have been threatened by certain theories that would try to impose some kind of limitation on sovereignty, or limited sovereignty. I would like your views on this, also as a point of union between Latin Americans, seeking a more democratic United Nations and also to make other organizations

more democratic, at the service of our America and also of the poor countries of the South.

[Alarcon] In fact, this is also one of the priorities of our foreign policy, very active participation in the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, in the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Group in the United Nations and other international organizations, to defend certain principles that we think are of primary importance, now when there is an attempt to redesign the international order. I would say that the most important thing for each and every country of the South is to work together to ensure that the principle of national sovereignty is respected under the new international order. It must not be a recolonizing order, as some countries of the North seem to interpret it. Rather, it must be based on strict respect for those principles that are contained in the UN Charter.

I would say that the clearest, most evident principle, the basic foundation of the UN system, is that of the sovereign equality of states. That is, that we are all equal from the legal point of view. From this derives respect for the sovereignty of each state, noninterference in their internal affairs, and a basic principle which has to do with your previous question, international solidarity, international aid and cooperation to promote the development of the nations that for different reasons—which do not exclude, which (?prominently) include, the responsibility of the powerful nations over the course of history—have been left behind. That is, the international community has an obligation to promote a world that while respecting each state's rights, while respecting the identity of each state, while respecting the independence of each state, will facilitate and not hinder the progress and well-being of the populations of the less developed countries.

[Martinez] I think that to conclude this interview with Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, it would be extremely interesting to hear the Cuban foreign minister's description of what 1993 will be like, specifically regarding international events Latin America will participate in. Will Cuba be present at the Third Ibero-American Summit in Brazil?

[Alarcon] Of course. That is why I will be travelling to Madrid very soon, where the transfer from Spain to Brazil of the pro tem secretariat, which has to prepare for the next conference, will take place. We expect a lot from the next Ibero-American Summit, which is to be held in Brazil. We think it should be an occasion for our countries to make progress in a more specific way towards Latin American integration. I think that in Guadalajara we defined a platform, a set of common principles and views. We defined, we could say, the theory of Ibero-American joint action, but we would like really to have more tangible results from this next summit that our peoples can feel as important realities.

There are several very important international meetings this year. At the time of this interview, there is about to be a very important regional conference in San Jose of Latin American countries concerning next international conference on human rights, which will take place during the summer in Europe. I think this is an extremely important issue for Latin America. We talked before about human rights as a hoax, a hypocritical maneuver by certain developed countries, particularly the United States, but human rights are an extremely important issue for Latin America. Latin America has lived through sad, tragic periods of military dictatorships at the service of the United States which caused infinite suffering for our peoples. Latin America is also a continent where there are masses of people who are still fighting for their elemental rights. I am thinking about the communities of the original peoples of the Americas, the indigenous peoples, who in their time represented cultures that amazed the world, and that still have to fight, five centuries after their clash with European culture, because their absolutely essential (?rights) are ignored.

There are also peoples that are struggling for justice, that are striving for development and to achieve dignified living conditions, which all human beings have a right to. We have a great opportunity. We have the opportunity to base ourselves on our identity, on Latin American solidarity, on the opportunities that the Latin American government have, as members of a group that has a common origin and a vocation for unity through history, to work better together in our diplomacy, our governments' efforts abroad, to make it so that at these important international meetings this year, our interests [words indistinct] the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, can make real progress [words indistinct].

[Martinez] Well, I think that this interview in which Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada has spoken at various times about the need for cooperation between the countries of our America is an example that this is possible. This interview was a joint effort by Alvaro Montero of Channel 13 of Costa Rican television and myself, Pedro Martinez Pirez, of Cuban television and the "Today" [Hoy Mismo] program. Thank you, Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, for these exclusive statements for these two channels.

[Alarcon] Thank you, and thank you to the friends of Costa Rica's Channel 13 also.

Human Rights Election Termed 'Cuban Victory'

FL2001151793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Jose Perez Novoa, head of Cuba's permanent mission to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, termed it a Cuban victory that his country has been elected one of the vice presidents of the meeting on human rights for Latin America and the Caribbean that is taking place in Costa Rica. In statements to PRENSA LATINA, the Cuban diplomat pointed out that this choice constitutes a recognition of Cuba's role in the development of human rights. Perez Novoa also stressed that in the past two years, the Cuban Revolution's

enemies have tried to make it look as if Cuba does not cooperate with the United Nations in the domain of human rights. Cuba's designation as a vice president of the regional forum on human rights in San Jose, Costa Rica, at which representatives of over 30 countries are participating, shows—says Perez Novoa—that Cuba is outstanding in the domain of human rights; and, because of it, is receiving the support and solidarity of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Perez Novoa also said there can be no talk of social, electoral, or political human rights if economic human rights do not exist, as is currently the case in Latin America and the Caribbean, where 65 percent of the population live under conditions of extreme poverty.

Meanwhile, UN Undersecretary General Anthony Blanca, who is participating in the regional meeting on human rights in Costa Rica, has affirmed that the extreme poverty in which millions of inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean live constitutes a massive violation of human rights.

Human Rights Forum Delegate Defends Sovereignty

FL2101154593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...principles of territorial integrity and not to threaten to use force to solve disagreements among nations, urged Jose Perez Novoa [name as heard], who is the Cuban ambassador to the international agencies accredited in Geneva. Speaking at the regional meeting on human rights for Latin America and the Caribbean that is taking place in the capital of Costa Rica, Perez Novoa said the premises of intervention for humanitarian purposes or limited sovereignty advocated by the great powers constitute illegitimate acts under international law, according to Article 2 of the UN charter. Perez Novoa added that meddling in the internal affairs of nations constitutes a serious obstacle to reaching practical solutions in human rights matters and prevents the creation of a climate of trust, detente, peace, and cooperation among nations.

Perez Novoa also stressed Cuba's concern over social problems that are detrimental to democracy, generated by the neoconservative measures imposed on national economies. The Cuban ambassador to the international agencies accredited in Geneva also said that basing economic aid on respect for human rights is a harmful tendency because it is a negation of the practice of international cooperation established in the UN charter.

Last, Perez Novoa pointed out that Cubans are proud of their current political system because through it, they have achieved full, real mass participation in the running of the country.

Navy, Army, Air Force Begin Maneuvers 20 Jan

FL2101022993 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The military maneuvers to mark the birth of our national hero Jose Marti began today throughout the country. This anniversary on 24 February is also the 30th anniversary of the Revolutionary Navy. Forces from the three naval bases and the People's Navy of the Western, Central, and Eastern Armies are participating in cooperation with the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] regions and forces. The maneuvers will be done in three stages to verify the training accomplished by our combatants in carrying out maneuvers with complex exercises both during the day and at night using the minimum amount of resources.

The first stage consists of far away navigation to verify the training of the personnel during joint navigation, cohesion, and command over the forces at sea. The second stage will consist of combat exercises, launching of rockets by surface units and naval coastal rocket units, and artillery firing at naval and air targets both during the day and at night. The third stage consists of defending the bases through complex tactical exercises.

Captain (Martin Jodar), the deputy chief of the Revolutionary Navy, announced at a news conference that the maneuvers will end during the second half of February.

Pedro Ross Presides Over First Municipal Plenum

FL2101150593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The sugarcane recovery program aimed at increasing yields per caballeria and increasing sugar volumes in future harvests were subjects analyzed at the nation's first municipal plenum held in Guantanamo, which was called for that purpose. Pedro Ross, secretary general of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] and a Politburo member, presided over the meeting, at which he said that to apply the improvements and achievements of science and technology rigorously and promptly to sugarcane production will henceforth constitute a top priority for that sector's cadres and workers. Ross explained that the tasks of planting, weeding, and re-planting must be carried out in parallel with the harvest. He also stressed the need to improve the care given canecutters, and suggested that canecutters be given a knapsack or suitcase as a gift, with resources donated by the workers from the centers from which the mobilized canecutters come.

Garcia, Campa Attend Ceremony in Camaguey

FL2201024193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] A singular act of homage to Carlos J. Finlay took place in the auditorium of the Camaguey Medical Sciences School, as the province where he was born was

declared the ninth scientific hub in Cuba. Politburo members Maria de los Angeles Garcia and Concepcion Campa; Academy of Sciences President Rosa Elena Simeon; officials; researchers; and outstanding professionals attended the ceremony. The province's potential in scientific work is unquestionable, with 15 institutions working directly in research and six centers of higher education that consistently carry out these kinds of programs.

Progress in biotechnology; the production of medicines, chemical reagents and raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry; and the utilization of energy resources and new hydraulic technologies are showing their results.

In the ceremony's closing speech, Rosa Elena Simeon said the following.

[Begin Simeon recording] Knowing how quickly each of these projects—which are genuinely of Camaguey—are progressing unquestionably shows the superiority of socialism, which is capable of bringing out the abilities and potential of a nation like ours and a province like Camaguey. [applause] [end recording]

Raul Castro, FAR Officers Begin Tour of Eastern Army

FL2201025693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], has begun a tour of the territory of the Eastern Army by attending the final meeting to report on the conclusions of the inspection of that army conducted by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [Minfar]. Brigadier General Raul Fernandez Marrero, the chief of a Minfar directorate, gave the report on the results of the inspection. The inspection's phase of direct work with the troops in the theater of military operations was conducted from 20 to 30 December 1992.

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, the chief of the General Staff and a Politburo member, gave the closing speech, noting the essential points, which included both the positive points and the deficiencies that still exist. Rosales, the first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], congratulated the Eastern Army command for the high morale and discipline of the troops, their optimum combat readiness, their progress in conditioning the terrain, and their achievements in 1992 which have brought this army close to complete food self-sufficiency.

General Rosales del Toro alluded to the current international situation, which is marked by the hegemonic intentions of the United States to become the world's policeman, using the most diverse pretexts, such as humanitarian intervention in the case of Somalia, violation of UN agreements in the case of Iraq, and prevention of Haitians entering U.S. territory in the case of Haiti. All these are brazen and manipulative acts of force by imperialism with which Bush occupied his final hours in the White House.

[Begin Rosales recording] The units inspected, comrades, showed a wonderful attitude and high morale, which shows the results that can be achieved even during the special period [end recording]

Based on the results of the inspection, Castro also especially congratulated several large, medium, and small units and a large group of chiefs, officers, sergeants, privates, militia members, and civilian workers of the FAR. The Banes Municipal General Staff, the Flores and Los Angeles Defense Zones, and the Banes Territorial Troops Militia women's company were given special praise, which was extended to the party, government, mass organizations, and all the residents of Banes.

The honor guard of the historic 50th Division of Baragua gave the FAR minister the solemn welcoming salute with a parade to the strains of the invasion anthem. Raul was accompanied by Politburo members Div. Gen. Ulises Rosales and Div. Gen. Leopoldo Cintra, the latter the chief of the Western Army; Div. Gen. Ramon Espinosa and Div. Gen. Joaquin Quintas, the chiefs of the Eastern and Central Armies, respectively; Brig. Gen. Nestor Lopez Cuba, the chief of the FAR Political Directorate; Francisco Garcia Ferrer, first PCC secretary in Holguin Province; and Jorge Risquet. All are members of the Central Committee.

Division Chief Colonel Alfredo Igarza briefed Castro and the military officers accompanying him about the status of the unit and the main missions and tasks it is carrying out. After expressing his satisfaction with the combat readiness and morale of this command, the minister praised the productive effort the division and army are planning to make this year and inspected agricultural fields and social facilities. With deep emotion, the delegation watched a dramatization by secondary school students of the historic meeting between Martinez Campos and Maceo in Baragua, when Maceo expressed the revolutionary intransigence of the Cuban people fighting for national independence and the abolition of slavery, and with that action wrote one of the most glorious pages in our history.

No less moving was Castro's meeting with the almost 200 children at the military community's childcare center, which bears the suggestive name of Future Little Soldiers. This community is made up of more than 700 households, and has that many apartments, a primary school, a semiboarding school, and other social facilities.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Viva free Cuba! Let's have a round of applause for all the kids at the Future Little Soldiers Preschool. [applause] Well, next year I am going to come back here in January, and I will visit....

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] And bring Fidel!

[Castro] I will tell him so! Listen, I am going to visit the school then, right? Good. Say hello to your fathers and mothers. Goodbye. [end recording]

Fuel Supply Difficulties Affect Extensive Areas

FL2001191893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] For several days, difficulties in supplying fuel have prevented Cuba from keeping the Nuevitas thermoelectric plant running. This has greatly affected the electric service. The Ministry of Basic Industry explains that despite the efforts, it has been impossible, for technical reasons, to distribute the effects of this situation nationwide. For this reason, these effects have been far greater in the provinces from Ciego de Avila to Guantanamo.

Along with this, unpostponable repairs to one of the units of the Cienfuegos thermoelectric plant have exacerbated the situation, spreading the effects to the western provinces. The Nuevitas and Cienfuegos thermoelectric plants are expected to be able to resume producing electricity within the next week, and only the power outages scheduled in accordance with each province's plan are expected to be continued.

Factory Experiences Worker Indiscipline, Absenteeism

FL2201020993 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] At the end of December, this newscast reported on the fire that destroyed part of the Julio Rufin Match Factory in Cerro Municipality. A little more than 500,000 boxes were destroyed there by the fire. Will this affect current levels of consumption?

The damages suffered at Julio Rufin Factory 207 are still being evaluated, but right now the workers at that factory are working alongside their neighbors at Rene Vedia Factory 206. Half a million boxes of matches does not seem like such a heavy loss, but in the medium term this could cause greater problems.

Joining together the workers from both factories has not brought an increase in production volume, and this month they have fallen short by 50,000 boxes. Workforce turnover—now almost 50 percent—indiscipline, absenteeism, and the inexperience of the new workers are acting against the necessary increase in production. This has caused productivity to drop.

If this continues, in a few months the situation with matches may become even worse than at present, unless the measures that have been applied show results and they can produce the 4.5 million boxes of matches projected in the plans of the two factories. The raw materials are guaranteed, and the workers are willing. We have only to wait for the results.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 14 - 20 Jan

FL2101010993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 14 and 20 January.

Havana City workers, mobilized for two-week periods, surpassed 1992 production goals in tubers, vegetables, and citrus fruit, with more than 6.6 million quintals harvested. The Cuban Workers Confederatin plans for each group to harvest more than 7,000 quintals per caballeria. On the Isle of Youth, 2,230,000 trees were planted during 1992, including fruit trees, mangroves, and leycaena. At least 25 percent of nitrogenous fertilizer used in rice crops can be replaced with a biofertilization technology. Experiments have yielded important results: use of the biofertilizer Azospirillum has caused 5-15 percent increases in yields. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Jan]

The Isle of Youth has concluded the export of fresh grapefruit under exceptional conditions. The report adds that more than 670,000 boxes of high- quality grapefruit were harvested from August to December, adding that 90 percent was exported. 25,000 tons still need to be harvested. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Jan]

Esmeralda Municipality in Camaguey Province has been recognized by the Association of Small Farmers for their agricultural efforts. The municipality surpassed their planting plan and planted more than 32 caballerias of miscellaneous crops. Agricultural production registered 119 percent. The municipality surpassed their milk production plans and obtained outstanding results in citrus production and in the weeding of sugarcane fields. The municipality harvested more than 100,000 quintals of agricultural products. Approximately 8,700 students have been mobilized this week in Havana Province to weed potato fields, harvest cabbages, tomatoes, and to perform other agricultural tasks. The students from different polytechnical, pre-university, and secondary schools will work up to five consecutive days. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jan]

Sugar Industry Minister Juan Herrera has reported that Cuba has been able to receive only 10 percent of the parts necessary for sugar mill repairs to prepare for the current harvest. In Las Tunas Province, the completion of the facilities and the assembly of the second mill marks the end of Phase II of the construction of a calcium carbonate factory that is underway in Jesus Menendez Municipality. This increases the plant's productive capacity by some 10,000 tons, to close to 60,000 tons, with better quality. After the first mill was set up in the first quarter of 1992, and despite the fact that it was under construction, the factory produced over 7,000 tons of No. 8 calcium carbonate, 2,270 tons of No. 3 calcium carbonate with the help of a borrowed mill, and over 5,200 tons of stones for rockbeds, whose use in building railways avoided a considerable expense. A

third construction phase is planned. [Radio Progreso Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan]

The Comandante Gustavo Machin Mechanical Enterprise in Moa delivered over 3,500 tons of assorted parts, equipment, and structures in 1992—some of them recycled—which represents close to 70 percent of the needs of the Cuban nickel industry. Among the enterprise's priority production are modules for reduction ovens. In 1992, this enterprise completely repaired 24 pieces of mining equipment—mainly trucks and tractors—and manufactured considerable volumes of a great number of parts. In 1993, they are going to use over 17 million pesos to support nickel production in Holguin Province. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1255 GMT 19 Jan]

The Steelworking Industry has defined the following as its manufacturing priorities in 1993: bicycles, Taino engines, water pumps, deep well pumps, agricultural equipment, hand tools, cables, electrical wires, electrodes, and products for biotechnology. Approximately 260 caballerias of tobacco have been planted in Cabaiguan Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province. The goal is to plant 340 caballerias in all. It is also noted in this cast that an award has been given to a researcher who found a way to produce aluminum powder, thus replacing imports of this product. This is expected to save Cuba $700,000 during the first year of production in country.[Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jan] Although four of the 10 mills in Holguin Province have yet to start operations, the picking up of sugarcane following cutting has made it possible to harvest a little over 500,000 arrobas. This volume is equivalent to the daily potential average for a mill such Cristino Naranjo Mill which has a little over 300 manual cutters and 46 combines. [Radio Reloj Spanish 0305 GMT 20 Jan]

Health Minister Terry Speaks on AIDS

FL2101154293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0230 GMT on 20 Jan carries its "Open Agenda" program on the accomplishments and goals of the Cuban program against AIDS. Program host [unidentified] states that the goal of this program is to dispel the people's worries concerning AIDS.

The host asks guest Hector Terry Molinet, the vice minister for hygiene and epidemiology of the Public Health Ministry, to explain the role of Cuba's policies—routine blood tests and interning of HIV-positive patients—in the fight against AIDS; policies which have provoked international criticism and accusations of human rights violations.

Terry says the Cuban program is fundamentally based on the same strategy used against all sexually transmitted diseases and the tests are essential for epidemiology control purposes. Terry adds that, up to last week, 886 HIV-positive individuals had been identified, thanks to the over 13,430,000 million tests conducted since the beginning of the program in April 1986.

Terry adds that the Cuban average life expectancy for patients who rigorously follow treatment is 12 years, similar to the average worldwide.

The hosts relay a viewer's question on what is the most successful medical treatment. Terry answers that the most used medicine is azidothymidine [ZDU, formerly AZT], which has yielded the best results in avoiding the onset of clinical symptoms by stopping the virus from multiplying, or in patients with AIDS, by prolonging life expectancy. He goes on to say that other products have been developed: DDI, DDC, and Interferon; and work is being conducted internationally on 14 vaccines. In response to another viewer's question, Terry states that many countries, including Cuba, are experimenting with herbal medicine.

The host asks Terry how many people have died of AIDS in Cuba. He answers that 94 individuals have died of AIDS and 11 HIV-positive individuals have died of other causes.

Terry goes on to give statistics: 80 percent of HIV-positive females and 65 percent of HIV-positive males are under 30 years of age; of the 886 HIV-positive individuals, 257 or 28.8 percent are females; and 629 or 71.2 percent are males. The number of homosexuals has surpassed the number of heterosexuals despite the increase in heterosexual cases during 1992. There are 112 homosexual or bisexual patients.

The host plays a video interview with HIV-positive patients who stress the importance of information, monogamous behavior, and use of condoms in order to avoid infection.

Terry is asked of the dangers tourism represents with respect to AIDS. He says that like anywhere else, and like any other sexually transmitted disease, it is all related to knowledge of your partner's behavior and that for this reason, we have to boost the education of the personnel involved in this field.

The host asks if mosquitoes or lice can transmit the HIV virus. Terry states that laboratory tests have not shown that the virus can be transmitted in this manner.

Terry states that they have worked very hard during the last ten years, but that there is no end in sight. The Cuban program has had positive results as a containment wall to avoid the massive and exponential spread of this disease. One million dollars a year is used in the AIDS program. Every AIDS patient costs 14,000 pesos and a large amount in hard currency for medicine and food. If they are ill, the amount climbs to 24,000 pesos and also hard currency.

Terry adds that only three—out of 600—hemophiliac patients in Cuba have become HIV positive and that at one point Cuba destroyed 20,000 frozen bags of plasma to avoid the danger of infection.

Terry concludes by saying that projections for 1993 are similar to that of 1992, during which the number of cases was lower than expected and that the danger lies in homosexual behavior and for females, in heterosexual behavior.

Canary Islands Nationalist Party Head Visits

FL2001203693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Over 100 Canary Islanders are visiting our country. Reporter Zenaida Costales has this report.

[Costales] The delegation from the Canary Islands is essentially made up of artists, intellectuals, and tourists who will participate in a number of cultural activities until 30 January. Dr. Bernardo Cabrera, chairman of the International Science and Communications Center of the Universidad de la Laguna, talked to me about the purpose of his visit.

[Begin recording] [Cabrera] [passage omitted] Also, from my political perspective—for I am the president of the Canary Islands Nationalist Party [Partido Nacionalista Canario]—well, the thing is, the Canary Islands Nationalist Party was founded in Cuba. Don Jose Cabrera Diaz founded the party in Cuba in the first quarter of the present century, and what we have done is to re-found the Canary Islands Nationalist Party in the Canary Islands.

[Costales] So we can consider your visit here a point of solidarity with or support for the people of Cuba?

[Cabrera] For the people of Cuba, yes, of course! I will repeat what I told the vice president: I think that, setting aside the matter of which political regimes may govern in our respective countries, as well as ideology, I think the people of Cuba and the people of the Canary Islands feel they linked by blood ties. Consequently, we are willing—and I think this is true of any Canary Islander, regardless of ideology—to try to support this nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Antigua and Barbuda

Attorney General Recommends Economic Visa Policy

FL2101194093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1229 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Jan 21, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda Attorney General Keith Forde, who is to advise cabinet on the issue of "economic citizenship," says he "is against the principle." But "if the interest of the country is to progress ... I don't mind assisting," Forde conceded. "What I am for is for an economic visa like what they do in Canada," he explained.

Antigua and Barbuda is having a close look at the idea of businessmen gaining citizenship of the twin-island state through substantial investment—something Dominica is doing. The Dominica project is under heavy fire from the parliamentary opposition and some businessmen.

Forde said the Canadians have a principle "where they allow people to come and invest at least a million dollars, or create at least 10 jobs, and they will give you an economic visa... (it is) something like that I will like Antigua to do," he remarked. "We are looking at all the paramaters and see the best the way to go," Forde said.

Guyana

Private Sector Demands Lower Tax, Interest Rates

FL2101190193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1606 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 21, CANA—Guyana's private sector wants consumption taxes cut and interest rates lowered, a spokesman for the business community has said. Secretary of the umbrella Private Sector Comission, David Yankana, said a review and a possible lowering of the controversial consumption taxes would make local companies more competitive with regional and international businesses.

"If consumption taxes are (cut), it means that our manufacturing companies will become more competitive.... If the interest rate is down, it means that we will be able to recapitalise much faster and we will have more flexibility in the use of working capital," Yankana told CANA. He added: "If the inflation rate is down, then we will have an opportunity to be more circumspect with our labour cost. We will be able to renegotiate a lower labour cost. We will keep (salary) increases within the inflation rate and if capital allowances are granted, then again we will be able to invest and recover much quicker than if those allowances were not given."

The Private Sector Commission wants inflation, now beween 13 and 14 percent pared to "single-digit" figures, interest rates reduced from 22-25 percent to around 15 percent, and downward adjustments in consumption taxes.

"We are also looking at the fiscal policies of the government that will cause the interest rate and the borrowing rate to be reduced from (the) current levels of between 22 and 25 percent to a much more manageable figure of maybe 15 percent," Yankana said. "This would mean that the government's borrowing would have to be reduced to cause this to happen and inflation will have to be controlled in single-digit figures," he told CANA.

Finance Minister Asgar Ally earlier this month told CANA the government wants to bring down the inflation rate to under 10 percent in 1993.

Yankana said the PSC is discussing its proposals with the finance minister. Some manufacturing houses also want a review of import taxes on competing imports and the

abolition of consumption taxes on inputs for manufactured items. Ally said his first budget may be presented before the end of February after a Paris Club meeting.

Haiti

Candidates Warn CEP of Fraud; Seek Invalidation

FL2101213493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Jocelyn Jean in Cap-Haitien—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the north of the country, the candidates could not agree. The Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] has therefore decided to count the votes in the capital. It is in Port-au-Prince [rephrases] Port-au-Prince will publish the results of the elections for the North, according to details from Jocelyn Jean.

[Jean] The 18 January elections were held in the North, but Port-au-Prince will count the ballots and publish the results. This decision has been taken because the candidates cannot agree.

In a 19 January letter of protest to Jonas Demas Bien-Aime, president of the North Departmental Electoral Office [BED], independent senate candidate Pierre Antoine Herve Leveille has warned the electoral body, CEP, against any attempts to rig the results of the 18 January elections. The candidate issued this warning after his partisans protested in front of the BED of the North where several shots were fired in the morning in order to avoid violations. This episode happened on the morning of 19 January.

[Leveille] In view of all those machinations in favor of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti candidate who is unfortunately [words indistinct] involved high-level officials such as the departmental delegate, the BED president, and especially the CEP departmental representative in the North. I have sent to the electoral body a firm warning against any attempts to arrange, to rig the results which must respect the wish of the voters in the most faithful manner.

The news we just received from Cap-Haitien reports that an independent candidate has sent a letter to the CEP to ask it to invalidate the elections which were held in the Department of the North. That candidate has made this proposal because of irregularities he says he noted in several Registration and Voting Offices on polling day. Let us listen again to our correspondent Jocelyn Jean for more details.

[Jean] In a four-page letter to CEP President Balthazar Saimphar Line, independent candidate Senator Jackson Noel has questioned the 18 January elections and has asked that those elections be invalidated for the Department of the North. The candidate has made these proposals after he noted several irregularities in Saint-Raphael Pignon, Dondon, Port Margot, and Cap-Haitien where his representatives were not allowed to participate in the vote counting. [passage omitted]

FNCD Deputies Term Elections 'Masquerade'

FL2101230193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] deputies are considering a plan aimed at preventing the winners of the 18 January elections from sitting in parliament. During a news conference on 20 January, the Front bloc in the lower chamber once again termed as a masquerade the ballot and thanked the population for its behavior in the elections. Rejecting the results of the ballot, FNCD deputies could possibly request the help of the public in order to counter the advent of the newly elected in parliament. Resignac Ansy-Rose has the following report.

[Begin recording] [Resignac] FNCD deputies will not just be content with the abstention of the population in the latest elections. Like the other components of the opposition, they obviously congratulate themselves for what the population showed on 18 January. However, they intend to pursue the struggle to the end by preventing the winners in those elections from sitting in parliament. An assessment of the current situation, made by the FNCD parliamentarian bloc, would indicate they foresee that the parliament would be doomed to disappear if it agrees to endorse the results of the 18 January elections. This portion of the opposition, which intends to consider the results of the elections as a foreign body within the parliament, recalls that the Constitution prohibits members of the legislature power from sitting with foreign bodies.

FNCD deputies have already agreed, it seems, on a plan to counter this situation because political strategy is required. They say that they cannot reveal the content of the plan. In any case, the opposition bloc at the Chamber of Deputies does not reject resorting to force.

[Unidentified deputy, in Creole] If they choose various people and they can send them like this and place them among us, until these people are out, any method can be taken, even resorting to public force to ask those people to leave. If the Permanent Electoral Council, Mr. Bazin, the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party, and the National Partiotic Movement of 28 November insist on thinking that they are going to settle into Parliament several illegal deputies and senators, we are saying that the crisis has just begun.

[Resignac] Once more, opposition parliamentarians are raising their voice against the elections and the current authorities. They state that they understand their attempts aimed at blocking the activities of the government that will be set up within the framework of the search for a solution to the crisis. They blame the former National Alliance for Development and Progress leaders

of being the main people responsible for the blockade of the country. Deputy Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis says that they are a wicked element who will not hesitate to destroy 6 million Haitians to profit from their interests if they have the courage to say that 30,000 people participated in the ballot in the Artibonite Department. According to Deputy Jean-Philippe Kerne Charles, he was dismayed when he heard Marc Bazin congratulate the electoral council for its work because he feels the elections were, at all levels, a masquerade.

[Deputy Jean-Philippe, in Creole] The elections were void throughout the Republic. Everyone acknowledged that. They should have the courage to pronounce the nullity of the 18 January elections.

[Resignac] FNCD deputies think that a government formed from a solution to the Haitian crisis will see the necessity of abolishing the unconstitutional acts taken by the current authorities. They invite Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide to propose to the legislative power the necessary bills for the formation of territorial assemblies to hold free, honest, and democratic elections. [end recording]

Deputy Criticizes FNCD Position

FL2101234993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Deputy Frantz Robert Monde criticizes the position of his National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] colleagues. The parliamentarian from the Alliance asserts that the elected people from the 18 January ballot must sit normally in parliament. Deputy Frantz Robert Monde thinks the time has come for the FNCD bloc to change politics and to think of the country's interests. Let us listen to him.

[Begin recording] [Monde] For my part, those parliamentarians are elected as I am. It is up to the FNCD to prove the unconstitutionality, the illegality, the irregularities of the elections. It is a very bad thing on the part of the FNCD parliamentarians that, despite their minority, they think that they can make the final decision. We are all parliamentarians, whether we are from FNCD or from the Alliance, we have a common denominator: a country to defend. I think that all of our decisions must be taken in conjunction with this country's interests. Where then lies this country's interest, in the elections or not in the elections? That is the question to ask.

I think that the elections can help to free the country from its situation of crisis that is becoming serious. They never come to present their arguments because they have been using a tactic since 1986. They do not see that this tactic is used up because the facts are different. It is just to make a great noise and statements on the radio. They think that it will work. I am for a meeting around the same table to debate the question with them. I do not agree with them.

[Correspondent Rothschild, in Creole] So you feel that the other parliamentarians elected in the 18 January elections are normal parliamentarians and should sit in Parliament?

[Monde] Yes, until proof to the contrary. [end recording]

Training Camp Mutiny Suppressed in Petionville

FL2101161893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The first point in today's newscast is that a military source in the capital said that officers of the Training Camp arrested and imprisoned a soldier on Wednesday, 20 January following a mutiny attempt at the Petionville training camp. According to that source, the soldiers who mutinied are not from the artillery unit, but from the 20th Company. The source also said four soldiers fled after the action failed, but that these soldiers were not armed. The population living near the training camp heard numerous shots on the morning of 20 January at about 1600 GMT. The situation, however, returned to normal shortly thereafter. It does not appear that these shots were fired by members of the artillery.

According to the same military source, it was politicians trying to incite the military to disrupt the negotiations being held on the country's crisis. The source did not, however, identify these political sectors. In a statement to the press this week, the commander in chief of the Army, General Raoul Cedras, had pointed an accusing finger at sectors opposed to negotiations as trying to ignite the Army. The general made this statement while denying that the Army had agreed to Father Aristide's return to power. [passage omitted including previously filed material]

Jamaica

Air Traffic Controllers Ordered To Return to Work

FL2101192093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1614 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 21, CANA—Jamaican air traffic controllers, on sick-out since Tuesday, were being urged by their leaders early Thursday to return to work. This follows a back-to-work order on Wednesday by the island's industrial court, the Industrial Disputes Tribunal (IDT).

The industrial action caused by a wages and salaries dispute with government has led to numerous flight cancellations and the closure of Jamaica's two integnational airports at nights.

Fears have been expressed here that Jamaica's tourism industry, now at the height of the winter season, could be

seriously hurt. Meanwhile, Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, in urging air traffic controllers to return to work, has warned that his government would not "engage in abject surrender."

More than sixty air traffic controllers have taken strike action. Minimum advisory services are being provided to aircraft by supervisors manning Jamaica's area control centre, which serves the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston and the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay.

Controllers Return to Work

FL2201140493 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The air traffic controllers in Jamaica are back to work as of last night [21 January]. However, the issue of salary raises, which caused the strike, is yet to be resolved. The government says the salary hike proposals will be reviewed this coming Tuesday. The two international airports in Jamaica were effected by the job action over the past week.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

1 Ton Cocaine Seizure Causes Security Concerns

FL2201014493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2130 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Jan 21, CANA—Following a record cocaine haul by the police here one week ago, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association and a senior politician here have expressed concern about security matters and the disposal of the confiscated drug.

"How did that large amount of cocaine get in to the country," questioned Victor Cuffy, president of the human rights association? "There is, obviously, a lapse of security when that amount of cocaine could come in."

Cuffy said this again raised the question of St. Vincent and the Grenadines being a trans-shipment point for drugs and suggested the local police should seek closer links with international anti-drug enforcement agencies in a bid to eradicate this problem.

"The whole business of cocaine is becoming a very big thing and our own police.... have to have connections with other groups such as Interpol because they need help."

Cuffy also thinks government ministers should do more in the fight against drugs by being more vocal on the issue.

"Government ministers expecially the minister responsible for security, should be saying more on these matters," Cuffy charged.

Police acting on a tip-off seized more than 1 ton of cocaine and arrested a 46 year old shop-keeper and her 18 year old daughter. Deputy police commissioner, William Harry told CANA Thursday the search was continuing for Julian Warner, the woman's husband, who escaped during the raid. He said there was no suspicion that Warner may have left the island.

John Thompson, a former deputy political leader of the St. Vincent Labour Party said the cocaine find had implications for security adding that it also strengthened a popular public view that cocaine "has been a problem here over the years." Thompson said he hoped strict measures would be employed to ensure that all the confiscated drug is disposed.

Making reference to doubts surrounding the total disposal of a quantity of cocaine seized off Mustique in the Grenadines in 1990, Thompson said he hoped the same would not be the case here.

"There was some doubt as to what really happened to that cocaine and I feel that greater security must be exercised to determine that the full amount of cocaine is (destroyed)," Thompson said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Probe Concludes No Drug Cartel in Police Force

FL2001000693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 19, CANA—A team of British hired by the Trinidad and Tobago Government to probe allegations of a drug cartel in the police service, has concluded no organisation existed. However, the detectives from the New Scotland Yard Organised Crime Unit reported they had uncovered a core of corrupt police officers.

The findings of the six-month probe were made public Tuesday during a statement to the Senate by National Security Minister Russel Huggins. The Scotland Yard team was brought in after suspended assistant police commissioner, Rodwell Murray, alleged that a charge of misconduct was brought against him because he had refused to join the alleged cartel in the service.

"There is no evidence to support this allegation nor is it believed to exist in the sense that officers are conspiring together to import, trans-ship, or distribute drugs," Huggins told the Senate.

"What does exist is a hard core of corrupt officers who will do anything to get money for themselves regardless of the consequences for others."

According to the investigating detectives, one method used by corrupt officers to obtain money was providing

protection for those engaged in the drug-trade. "This is where the drug connection exists," the report said.

Huggins, however, made clear that "not all police officers in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service are corrupt."

He added: "...But there is no doubt that there are a few whose actions, unless curtailed, will tarnish the many who are desirous of seeing the credibility of the service restored."

Huggins said the difficulty faced by the investigating team was the collection of cogent evidence to bring criminal proceedings against the corrupt officers.

"Let me assure you, however, that work will continue by the investigating team and I have every confidence that we will succeed in rooting out the corrupt ones," he remarked.

Dealing with problems facing the country, Huggins said the high incidence of crime and its widespread negative effect on economic development and the quality of life were of major concern to the government. Criminal activity, said the national security minister, was now marked by increased incidence of violence against the victim in the commission of crimes, increased circulation of illegal firearms and the use of firearms in acts of crime, increases in white collar economic crime which had the potential for undermining the integrity, reputation, and viability of the commercial and financial sectors, exploitation of the advantages of higher education and technological advances in the commission of crimes, and the burgeoning problem of illicit traffic in drugs.

Huggins said his ministry had embarked on a programme of action with a view to achieving increased police mobility, reduced response time, greater police visibility on a continuous basis, expeditious trials in the cases of serious crime, and the introduction of a drug court which will deal exclusively with crimes pertaining to drugs, arms, and ammunitions.

"...The attorney general has been requested to take the necessary steps for utilising the Chaguaramas Court as a special court for expeditious handling of drug matters and other cases of serious, menacing crimes," said Huggins, adding that cabinet had given approval for the establishment of a seized assets fund. The minister said captured assets of drug trafficking would be "ploughed back" into the counter-narcotics effort.

Huggins said the police Narcotics and Firearms Bureau would be replaced by a newly constituted "Organised Crime and Narcotics Unit." The matter was under discussion with the National Security Ministry's new special adviser in police management. Under the aegis of the newly-formed Office for Strategic Services which will be headed by the new adviser, an inter-ministerial team has completed a review of existing drug legislation with a view to enhancing the legal framework and enabling ratification of the 1988 Vienna Convention by Trinidad and Tobago.

Government is also drafting new legislation highlighting new offenses which include:

—the possession, manufacture, transportation, or distribution of precursor chemicals, knowing that they are to be used for the illicit cultivation or manufacture of drugs.

—the laundering by a drug trafficker of his own trafficking proceeds or the laundering of another's drug trafficking proceeds with intent to avoid prosecution.

—the acquisition, possession, or use of property, knowing at the time of receipt that such property was derived from drug trafficking.

Government is also seeking to establish a citizens/police committee whose functions would extend beyond reporting of incidents and general vigilance, to assisting in "resourcing" and monitoring police activities under formal arrangements.

"The programme of civilianisation is aimed at increasing the number of officers available for police duties by relieving them of duties which civilians are capable of performing," said Huggins, who estimated that some 350 posts would be "civilianised."

El Salvador

Editorial on Hopes of Clinton Administration

PA2201041893 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Clinton is Sworn in as U.S. President"]

[Text] The new U.S. administration, headed by President William Clinton and Democratic Party leaders, begins work under very good conditions. The country's economy has begun to recover and a disarmament treaty with Russia has eased fiscal pressures on the nation. The voters have great confidence in the new administration and the United States has attained several military victories in two of the world's boiling points: Somalia and Iraq. Another positive point is that former President George Bush signed the North American Free Trade Treaty, which includes the enormous geographic area of Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Possibly, never before in this century has an outgoing leader left a more positive legacy to the incoming president. In addition to strengthening the U.S. policy of force in the past three years—concurrent with the death of the Soviet Union—the Republican administration invaded Grenada to avoid the closing of the Caribbean Sea, attacked Panama to send a clear message to its neighbors south of the Rio Grande, bombed Libya, liquidated the Iraqi Army in "the mother of all the defeats," and entered Somalia with impunity. The actions of the previous administration established a program for its successor; one based on what former President Theodore Roosevelt once said: "talk softly and carry a big stick."

The democracy and human rights rhetoric is to be accompanied by Tomahawk missiles and an imperial policy.

During the transition period, both the outgoing and incoming Presidents have stressed one fact: There will be no substantial changes in foreign policy. This was clearly shown when the presidency was passed from Carter to Reagan. The United States defends its vital interests and does not have "friends" as a person would. Besides the traditional ties it maintains with France and the UK, there are only allies with which it shares similar objectives. However, in regard to others, they will push China to communism, drop atomic bombs on Japanese civilians, and level the historic center of Dresden.

This is the history of all empires; from the ones who disguised their expansion under the sign of the cross or the half moon and now, with an emphasize placed on democracy, "human rights," "pluralism, and tolerance."

The great empire shows cracks like all those that preceded it. The historic cycle repeats itself inexorably throughout the millenniums and nothing has led us to believe that the formula to escape decadence has been found. The United States carries the weight of a monstrous fiscal deficit, the gradual loss of the work ethic, and increased cronyism. Those were the three disorders that resulted in the collapse of the Roman Empire more than 18 centuries ago.

We hope to God That a Moral Leadership is Implemented

The big problem to be confronted by Clinton is that his electoral promise—articulated in a gigantic government that furthers interventionism—is incompatible with the country's true recovery. We must add that the voters reject a reduction in subsidies, but with the average cost of living, there are more and more dependent and pensioned people and less people contributing to their maintenance. Furthermore, partisan policy is addressed to benefit immediately the trivial desires of the electorate to the detriment of medium- and long-term goals. All these are, in lesser or greater extent, the woes that negatively affect all democracies. However, in some countries, traditional values influence public opinion more than in other countries.

It has already been said that by offering tax reductions to several groups—the ones who save less—by launching business growth policies, and by giving more "assistance," the numbers will simply not balance. Several objectives clash with others. Hopefully Clinton will manage to secure an adequate balance among the different objectives.

The outgoing administration, in a program started by Reagan, deployed efforts to recover traditional values, which are the ethical bases on which this great nation rests. Undoubtably, Clinton can do no less than continue the task, as a nation will not flourish if its leaders lose sight of its goals and their civic honesty. God be willing that the new President, who irradiates youth and vigor, will carry out a political, as well as a cultural and spiritual, leadership.

Editorial Views Change in U.S. Leadership

PA2101192993 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Clinton Takes Office 20 January"]

[Text] On 20 January, in an impressive ceremony that is a U.S. tradition, William Clinton—or Bill Clinton, as he is known to the American people —will become U.S. president. The arrival of this young man with a clear "American" profile to the White House is an event that will have worldwide repercussions. This is a definite change in the U.S. Presidency; because he will be the first U.S. President to begin his mandate in the post cold war period; because he will be the first U.S. president born after World War II, a period often referred to as the "Baby Boom" [preceding words in English] era; and because all this clearly means a generational change at a time when the world is experiencing dynamic transformations. History appears to alternate between periods of

enforcing traditions and promoting transformations. This clearly has been the case in the United States on two occasions: There was a transition from Eisenhower, a World War II general, to John F. Kennedy, a man who represented liberal ideas and a youthful message. Now, after 12 years of Republican leadership by Reagan and Bush, and although both of them did a lot for the United States and the world, the U.S. people wanted a change and elected a relatively unknown "young man" from Arkansas, who thus far has not been part of Washington's inner circle.

Clinton's arrival at the White House is an example of the new currents emerging in the world. Bush, like Gorbachev, were men of transition. They left with transition, because nations want these periods to end as soon as possible, since they bring instability, which could endanger world security. Trying to cling to transitional schemes and leadership is a mistake for which a high price must be paid. Worse yet, is trying to return to the past, when the historical march to the future has begun. Notwithstanding what people may think of Bush—whom we regard as an excellent leader—and Clinton as individuals and as leaders, Clinton at least deserves the benefit of the doubt. We believe the U.S. people made a decision in accordance with their traditionally open and sincere way of facing internal challenges, particularly at the political level. Ahead, there are many tasks and problems to be resolved in the United States and the world. We hope Clinton will do a good job.

CD Deputy Says Wage Increase 'Not Enough'

PA2001194693 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Report by Edwin Gongora]

[Text] Democratic Convergence [CD] Deputy Ruben Zamora said, today, 19 January, the salary increases announced by President Alfredo Cristiani are necessary but not enough. According to Zamora, this shows Cristiani lacks a specific program to face the nation's economic problems.

[Begin recording] [Zamora] Honestly speaking, it sounded more like an announcement made looking toward next year's elections than a profound analysis of the delicate and serious state of the economy. [end recording]

According to Zamora, the overall salary increase of 22 percent for public employees, announced by President Cristiani, is not enough to cope with the inflation rate brought about by the structural adjustment programs.

[Begin Zamora recording] Last year's inflation rate was a little over 20 percent. So, a 10-percent increase now only restores half our purchasing power. If we get a 12-percent increase in October, that would bring us to the level we had last December. In other words, the workers' salaries will be swallowed by the inflation rate of this year. [end recording]

Commenting on Cristiani's statement that 1993 will be the year to consolidate democracy and eradicate extreme poverty, the CD deputy noted the announcement makes no sense.

[Begin Zamora recording] This administration is on its third year. In three years, it has greatly increased the number of poor. It sounds suspicious that in the last year, in the face of an election, he announces what will be done. Also, the eradication of extreme poverty is not a problem resolved in one year. It is not a problem that can be resolved in five years, since it takes much longer than that. The third thing I would say is where is the program? [end recording]

Interviewed on the "Good Morning" newscast, Zamora said a plan to eradicate extreme poverty must include an increase in social spending, since El Salvador is one of the Latin American countries that spends the least amount on education and public health.

Counterinsurgency Battalion Demobilized

PA2101232993 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, announced the Lieutenant Juan Ramon Rodriguez Lopez Counterinsurgency Battalion demobilized on 21 January.

Coprefa announced this battalion was created in 1984 and operated in Sensustepeque, where it was based. This is the fourth battalion that demobilized in compliance with the peace accords.

Guatemala

URNG Accepts Serrano Peace Proposal

PA2201023393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0218 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 21 January accepted the peace plan proposed by President Jorge Serrano Elias on 19 January before the United Nations, a communique distributed here by the local media has announced.

In Mexico, a spokesman for the URNG described the initiative of the Guatemala Government "positive," but added it considers the Serrano proposal as "partial, contradictory, and incomplete."

Honduras

Callejas Reacts to Clinton; Supports Ramos Soto

PA2201044393 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 24

[Text] President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 20 January that U.S. President Bill Clinton should not forget his

country's commitment and solidarity with the American continent and should also strengthen trade and economic relations with the countries of the hemisphere.

Callejas expressed his first official reaction to Clinton taking office during the "Vica Noticias" television newscast and also referred to his party's internal policies.

Callejas stated the United States is currently undergoing a very difficult economic transition with a very high fiscal deficit, which demands that Bill Clinton make a "profound adjustment."

Nevertheless, the president said that despite this situation he expects President Clinton to "keep in mind what the American continent is, what Central America is, and specifically what Honduras is."

"He must not lose the sense of commitment and solidarity with the American continent. Even though we represent a small part of the international trade with the United States, it is also true that the countries that are creating big blocs will have protective measures that affect our continent's interests," Callejas said.

Callejas said that although poverty also affects the United States in the short and long term, the United States should look at the "prospects of increasing trade and economic relations with our countries."

Regarding his party's internal situation, Callejas said: "I am supporting, as a National Party of Honduras member, with resolve and decision" Oswaldo Ramos Soto, despite the opinion to the contrary of some political leaders of the ruling party.

"I feel that (Ramos Soto) is the candidate that is best qualified to continue the perspective of improving the country to face the human development of the Honduran people, who have a clear awareness and a very defined outlook about the future," Callejas said.

The president, however, said that in his role as president, he works for the benefit of all the Honduran people, thus his decision to back Ramos Soto "does not imply that the government will make an all-out effort to back his candidacy."

Callejas gave assurances that the Liberals "are in for a surprise" in the general elections to be held the last Sunday in November 1993.

Commentary on New U.S. Administration

PA2201044293 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 5

[Unattributed commentary: "How Does It Affect Us?]

[Text] What effect will the newly installed Democratic administration in the United States, with Bill Clinton as President, have on us?

In his inaugural speech, which was short but to the point, Bill Clinton highlighted the word "change," making a distinction between changes that are good and those that are bad.

There is no doubt that U.S. economic policy will change and that the model encouraged here will also undergo significant modifications.

If the U.S. economy recovers, new opportunities will be available to us, since the health of that economy also influences the direction of our economy.

Surely U.S. economic assistance will continue to decrease, and with this, the pressures for us to be more self sufficient will increase. Central America is no longer a very important region to the gringos.

It will be necessary to pay attention to the policies toward industrial parks. Clinton has viewed them as competition for domestic labor and during his election campaign promised a more protectionist policy. The union influence in the Democratic Party should not be forgotten.

It is obvious that with the unveiling of the trade agreement between the northern block: Mexico, the United States, and Canada, there will be more pressure on Central American integration. Not much has been done in Honduras to prepare production and investment for this objective. There are still insufficient resources for reconversion.

There will undoubtedly be a reevaluation of U.S. military expenditures since there are plans to cut part of the budget deficit by tackling this sector. Obviously there will be pressure for our countries to do likewise.

This time the Democrats control the Executive Branch and Congress, which means that the necessary cabinet changes should be made rapidly and that they should be meaningful.

Commander Admits Armed Forces Has 'Enemies'

PA2201030393 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Armed Forces commander in chief, on 20 January publicly acknowledged that the armed institution has enemies who, he said, with all due respect, must be civilians. He assured that these enemies are not within the armed institution.

The above was stated by the high-ranking military officer at the 1st Infantry Battalion headquarters on 20 January when Gen. Jose Banegas Medina turned over the Army command to his colleague Gen. Guillermo Paredes Hernandez. Banegas has been acknowledged as a man who has demonstrated his professionalism in the armed institution, while Paredes is known for his high merits and brilliant military virtues.

"Let us remain together, united, disciplined, and strengthened because as it has been said before, outside our community there are forces that attempt to sow doubts, create conflicts, and foster frictions. There are many opportunities to undermine our morale and to weaken our discipline, alas, there are criticisms to throw us off our guard and the ill will of those who are always ready to oppose us, with or without good reason," Discua said.

"While unity is the foundation of our strength, discipline is the spirit of our victory, and the joint action of all is the powerful incentive that motivates us to act with bravery in the fields of honor, loyalty, and sacrifice," the general noted.

President, German Ambassador Sign Loan Agreement

PA2001203693 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 20 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] The Honduran and German Governments on 19 January signed an agreement for a 5.2 million lempira loan which will be used for water and sewer system projects in three Honduran departments.

The agreement was signed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and German Ambassador Walter Eickhoff. Alonso Valenzuela, director of the Honduran Social Investment Fund (FHIS), also participated in the ceremony.

The project for the supply of drinking water will be carried out in El Porvenir municipality, Francisco Morazan Department, and the sewer projects will be implemented in Salama, Olancho Department, and San Marcos de Ocotepeque, Ocotepeque Department.

President Callejas and the FHIS director thanked the German Government for its financing of the three projects.

Ambassador Walter Eickhoff said he was pleased the projects will provide an important service to the three communities.

Nicaragua

Recontras Send Note To Government Urging Talks

PA2201033593 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Jan 93 pp 1,8

[Report by Vladimir Perez]

[Text] Recontra members of the "3-80 Northern Front," who have been cornered by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and who totally lack any type of popular support, decided to surrender their weapons and have requested an urgent meeting with the government to reestablish the talks that were suspended during the first days of December 1992.

Sources close to the government confirmed that the recontras sent a note requesting a meeting. They preconditioned the meeting, however, to their being able to choose the place, date, and time.

According to information learned by EL NUEVO DIARIO, the note, which was signed by "El Chacal," "Martin," "Venganza," "Magnum," "Gato Negro," "Rayo," and other recontra leaders, reached the government through the mediation of an International Commission of Support and Verification official named Pitark.

The EPS, backed by Government Ministry troops, continues its "Everything for Stability" operation. An EPS spokesman said they have caused 74 [as published] casualties: 34 deaths, 24 injured, and 12 captured.

Lt. Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, head of public relations for the EPS, acknowledged that government troops so far have sustained 12 casualties: four killed and eight injured.

Lt. Col. Wheelock reported that the civilian population has sustained five injured and eight kidnapped.

When questioned with respect to the recontra note, Wheelock pointed out that "of course they are going to get an answer." He recalled the warning made by General Joaquin Cuadra, head of the EPS General Staff, that those groups deciding not to enter the security zones by the end of January will "be handled by the military."

Lt. Col. Wheelock confirmed that the recontras possess between six and 12 surface to air FIM-43A missiles, commonly known as "Redeyes." According to Wheelock, the missiles were "hidden [embuzonados] in Honduras when the former Nicaraguan resistance demobilized."

"The dangerous part of this is that such weapons in the hands of those people could possibly affect commercial air flights," Wheelock added.

Wheelock reaffirmed that the recontras are operating in small groups in military Regions 1, 6, and 5. The area where they have concentrated "is currently plagued by extreme poverty."

"By this I do not wish to justify the actions these groups have taken. But I am convinced that the solution should not be simply military. There must also be some type of integral solution," Wheelock said.

The EPS officer pointed out that there is no water in the area, "no electricity, and no medical facilities. The only type of employment is picking coffee, which is temporary."

He predicted that in the next few months criminal activity in those regions could worsen "because it is estimated that more than 30,000 weapons are in civilian hands. That is very dangerous, especially when the people have no food."

Concerning the rearmed groups, Wheelock said that approximately 12 groups with a total of 200 men are operating in Region 1; 11 groups with 350 men in Region 5; and 14 groups with 180 men in Region 6.

Wheelock stated that in addition to negotiations between the recontras and the government, the EPS has also met with the principal recontra leaders to attempt to persuade them to surrender their weapons.

Commenting on the recontra proposal to reestablish talks, the military officer said the negotiations will probably take place in the next few days.

Panama

Protesters Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

PA2101202493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 2

[By Ibeth Vega]

[Text] During a demonstration on 20 January marking the end of the Bush administration, a heated exchange of words between relatives of the 20 December invasion casualties and the National Police resulted in tense moments and a traffic jam.

The demonstration also sought to establish the position of the relatives and Chorrillo residents, who have expressed the need for incoming U.S. President Bill Clinton to declare the invasion of Panama a "genocide".

The demonstration, which started at 1600 [2100 GMT] at Porras Paza, did not draw a very large crowd, but the number of participants was large enough to provoke arguments and moments of tension.

Members of the Association of Relatives of Invasion Casualties took to the streets peacefully but when they reached the U.S. Embassy, they shouted nationalist slogans and painted the walls along Balboa Avenue. The latter action called for police intervention.

Isabel Corro, president of the Association of Relatives of Invasion Casualties, argued with a National Police member, who told demonstrators that he would not let them paint the walls of any building.

This situation lasted about two hours and caused a traffic jam.

Attorney General Dismisses Nine Officials

PA2201001393 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Article by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Panamanian Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes has dismissed for drug use nine officials including First District Attorney Raul Rosales. Valdes announced the appointment and rotation of prosecutors. He noted that the pace of administering justice has quickened with the processing of 2,524 cases.

Valdes held a news conference on 20 January to report that on 19 January he dismissed nine officials from the Attorney General's Office who tested positive in a drug test conducted last year. Three other employees with the same problem submitted their resignations.

"We will continue to conduct these tests. Anyone who tests positive will be dismissed because we want an Attorney General's Office free of harmful people," he said.

Jorge Valdes, who replaced Rogelio Cruz following his separation (24 December 1992) for allegedly unfreezing drug trafficking money, said that Adolfo Montero will replace Raul Rosales as first district attorney.

He said that Maria Elena Alvarez will be the new second district attorney, Cecilia Lopez de Martin will be third district attorney, and Rogelio Arosemena will be the fourth district attorney.

The attorney general said he is "surprised" by the 2,524 pending cases in the different agencies of the Attorney General's Office.

He said these cases must be taken care of. He warned he will demand compliance with the Judicial Code regarding the accelerated processing of these cases, regardless of who they involve.

"I am warning the prosecutors and all Attorney General's Office officials: If they do not work at the pace demanded by the law, they had better go home," Valdes said.

He added that "some prosecutors have forgotten that before sentences are issued, all lawbreakers have the right to legal assistance. They also have the right to have their cases studied by the Attorney General's Office, not just thrown in a drawer."

The report on pending cases reveals there are 82 cases in Bocas del Toro Province, 393 in Cocle Province, 105 in Colon Province, 182 in Chiriqui Province, 75 in Darien Province, 102 in Herrera Province, 51 in Los Santos Province, 1,341 in Panama Province, and 213 in Veraguas Province.

According to the figures provided by Valdes, the Attorney General's Office agencies with the most pending cases include the Second Delegate Attorney's Office with 196 cases, the Circuit Court Prosecutor's Office in Penonome, Cocle Province with 164 cases, the First Delegate Attorney's Office with 115 cases, the Municipal Attorney's Office in Arraijan with 75 cases, and the Municipal Attorney's Office in Sona with 65 cases.

"As of now, we are going to be working on the pending cases so that all Panamanians can see that justice will be served," he said.

Valdes also announced during the news conference that initial steps have been taken to create the Attorney General's Office School, a project that will be extended to various judicial districts.

Assembly Approves Second Debate of ARI Bill

PA2101234893 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] On the night of 20 January the Legislative Assembly approved a second debate of the bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI], after revoking by a broad majority a decision reached by the Canal Affairs Commission (CAC) on the first debate.

With 48 votes in favor, eight against, and two abstentions—in an unprecedented action in legislative history and based on the National Constitution—the Legislative Assembly annulled the CAC's decision rejecting the bill and decided to pass it for a second debate. The debate will begin on the morning of 21 January.

The Christian Democratic Party, PDC, and pro-government legislative blocs broke the impasse on two discussions and announced they had reached an agreement to approve the ARI bill during the special legislative sessions.

PDC Legislator Raul Ossa announced at a news conference held prior to the session that the pro-government parties agreed to introduce 47 reforms to the ARI bill, which were proposed by the PDC.

Ossa said a consensus was reached to include in the process a notification by which preparatory activities to assume the administration of the Panama Canal in 2000 will be added to the functions assigned to the ARI.

According to the bill, the ARI was created as a national institution to manage all the properties that will revert to Panama based on the agreements signed with the United States in 1977.

Among other notifications on which a consensus was reached—and which are to be included in the bill—is one establishing the Legislative Assembly's obligation to approve a plan for the use of the reverted areas.

The pro-government bloc and the PDC also reached an agreement regarding the article on the ARI Board of Directors, whose members will be appointed for specific periods.

Based on the agreement, the Panamanian State will be the owner of all the reverted assets.

During the 21 January session, the Assembly will debate and vote on the three reports on the ARI: one from the pro-government bloc, one from the PDC, and one from the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

Ford on Debt Payments, Struggle Against Crime

PA2201162693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford has denied the international financial institutions have suspended credit to Panama. On the issue of common crime, he suggested the public force should shoot to kill, regardless of the age of the assailant.

[Begin Ford recording] The representative of the World Bank stated Panama is lagging behind or does not coordinate, whichever you prefer, compliance with some of the agreements we reached voluntarily. We reached these agreements because it is an economic and structural adjustment program that is beneficial for the country. The delay, however, could mean the second disbursement, which is planned for June, might not be made. The government has to—as the kids in Panama say—tune in and comply. That is what we agreed to do. [end recording]

He added Panama has not yet completed certain aspects of the economic plan, such as cuts in the government payroll.

[Begin Ford recording] On the evening of 20 January, the Cabinet unanimously agreed to freeze all vacancies. There is an immense contradiction between voluntary retirement and increasing the government's payroll. A decree to stop the payroll growth, which I proposed, was approved and the vacancies have been frozen. The government must simply support private enterprise and the self-employment program, so Panamanians can earn as much money as possible, without depending on the government payroll. [end recording]

He explained that, among other things, the privatization plan and the elimination of import tariffs must be completed. On the issue of crime, he said it is time something is done about the anarchy in the streets.

[Begin Ford recording] We cannot allow common crime to control the streets in a civilized society. I repeat: Shoot to kill whoever is caught red-handed with a weapon and threatening the life of another person. I do not care about the age of the assailant. [end recording]

He also announced the approval of an executive decree creating a job training scholarship plan. The objective of which is to give unemployed members of a family unit of at least three members training in trades that will allow them greater access to the job market or to generate income independently. The Human Resources Education and Training Institute will administer and coordinate the plan. The funds allocated to the plan total $37 million. The grants will be for $200.00 in the urban areas of Panama, San Miguelito, Chorrera, and Colon, and $175.00 per month in the rest of the country.

Commentary Opposes Ford Position

PA2201164993 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "Shoot to Kill"]

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford, who is characterized by his tough and to-the-point statements and his aggressive positions, has publicly said the police must toughen their attitude toward criminals and shoot to kill in the case of antisocial people who are armed or threatening public security.

This apparent license to kill, which resembles the belligerence assumed by the former and late Government Minister Marco Aurelio Robles, who ordered the shooting of criminals disturbing public order on the streets, is neither a democratic nor a prudent stand.

The bellicosity of the forces of order, whose duty is to preserve public peace and protect the citizens' lives and property, stems from an expansion of their duties that is leading its members to act with impunity in violation of the basic requisites imposed by the citizens' rights.

It is obvious the climate of public insecurity brought about by common criminals is affecting Panamanian society, however, it is also true this problem will not be magically abated by the sight of bodies every morning on the streets of those who are reportedly destabilizing the country.

We live in a democratic, orderly, and legal state, and thus, criminal acts or acts deemed to be in violation of the law must be subjected to the legal system and no authority should ignore this and advocate violence as a means to reduce the crime rate. This could actually increase considerably the criminal actions confronting Panamanian society.

Official Says Budget Ready for Implementation

PA1901194593 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jan 93 pp 1, 31

[Report by Jose Otero]

[Text] Delia Cardenas, planning and economic policy minister, has said the 1993 budget is already coordinated with the Comptroller General's Office, and every institution can begin the investment process. She added that the fast pace with which the budget has started to be implemented has no political overtones.

"The budget for this year is much more balanced because investments are financed by savings and foreign loans. At the same time, we will be paying less debt and interest than in previous years," the minister stated.

"The current budget has been coordinated with the Comptroller General's Office since 15 January, allowing us three more months to implement it. This fast pace with which the budget has been implemented can not be considered as an action with political overtones because this is a preelection year," Cardenas added.

The official also indicated that for 1993 the interest payment on the foreign debt will be 100 million balboas below last year's budget figure, since the government approved the payment of 287.9 million balboas this year, whereas in 1992 it paid 385.6 million balboas in foreign debt interest.

The official explained that this year's budget totals 3.4797 billion balboas. Of this total, 707.3 million [figure as published] balboas is earmarked for investment in the public sector, which will be broken down as follows: 81.7 million balboas for the agricultural and livestock sector; 17.4 million balboas for the commerce and industry sector; 96.1 million balboas for the health sector; 67.4 for the education sector; 101.6 million balboas for the housing sector; 94.9 million for the energy sector; 77.7 million balboas for the transportation sector; 44.2 million for the telecommunications sector; 1 million balboas for the tourism sector; and approximately 125.6 million [currency not specified] distributed in a multisectorial manner.

Argentina

Minister Cavallo on Relations With U.S.

PY2101172793 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Economy Minister Domingo Felipe Cavallo believes relations with the United States will be very good, just as they were under George Bush. Cavallo predicted there will be continuity in the relationship between the United States and Argentina.

Concerning new U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentson, the Argentine minister emphasized that he met with Bentson in Argentina when he was foreign minister. Cavallo stressed that Bentson knows very well the Latin American reality, especially Argentine reality.

GATT Document Viewed With 'Satisfaction'

PY2101123593 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0055 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government has voiced its satisfaction over the agreements reached at the Uruguayan Round of the GATT, and expressed its support for the final document drafted in Geneva, which is regarded as an "important step in the process aimed at freeing international trade."

Foreign Ministry spokesmen made this announcement which coincides with the statement by Juan Archibaldo Lanus, the Argentine delegate before the GATT Committee for Commercial Negotiations (CNC), who expressed "unrestricted support" for the document.

Lanus stated that the final document is an important starting point "that will be instrumental in lifting the protectionist barrier which restricts opportunities and causes unemployment, commercial conflicts, and leaves us defenseless."

Lanus emphasized that Argentina does not participate "in the war waged among the treasury offices that finance huge subsidies for producers" and thus violate GATT regulations. He stated: "A last effort to ease the situation is possible, but under the approved rules."

He said: "Argentina is willing to consider changes in the text," provided they are in keeping with the current draft of the final document.

Lanus expects that the 108 delegates could expedite the approval of the document without delay because this could jeopardize existing agreements.

He said: "If we do not approve the GATT multilateral agreements, our countries will become stagnant and our economies will enter a depression."

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo agreed with this position during the conversations he held with U.S. and European leaders who participated in the Geneva negotiations.

Last Jailed PL Member Released Under Oath

PY2101230893 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Jan 93 p 11

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Oscar Antonio Kuperman, the last member of the Liberation Party (PL) charged with planting bombs in several cash dispensers who was still in jail, was released under oath yesterday by Federal Judge Martin Irurzun.

Kuperman and three other PL activists had been arrested by order of Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria after a series of small bombs exploded last November in Buenos Aires.

Irurzun changed the charges against Kuperman from possession of explosives to presumed possession of explosives thus allowing him to walk free.

During the wave of bombings President Carlos Menem and then-Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano had publicly accused the PL members of being members of the People's Revolutionary Organization, which claimed responsibility for the strikes. All the men, who spent the last two months in jail, were released within the last five days amid severe criticism of Servini de Cubria's handling of the probe by the Federal Appeals Court.

Bomb Attack in Santa Fe; Perpetrators Unknown

PY2201001393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1428 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 21 Jan (NA)—Two persons died and another was injured as a result of a bomb which exploded outside the door of a telephone equipment shop.

The attack occurred shortly after 0800, killing the owner of the shop, Julio Lazzarino, 64, and an employee named Hetzer, of about 30 years of age.

Fanny Lazzarino, 22, the daughter of the shop's owner, was seriously injured but is out of danger.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Police sources voiced surprise over the attack, because Lazzarino is a well-known businessman in the zone and was not involved in politics.

The explosion occurred when the three persons were about to enter the shop at 2800 San Jose Street, some 10 blocks from the downtown area. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Cuban People's Assembly President Visits

PY2101220493 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1760 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera is the president of the Cuban People's Assembly, which is equivalent to a national parliament. He has been receiving various signs

of appreciation from authorities and congressmen since his arrival in the city of La Paz.

After receiving an award as illustrious guest of the city of La Paz from La Paz Mayor Julio Mantilla a few hours ago, Cuban People's Assembly President Juan Escalona Reguera said the people's generosity, and not the altitude, is more noticeable in the city of La Paz.

The Bolivian Congress also wanted to express its pleasure over Escalona's visit during a meeting held this morning in the Senate's Red Hall. During the meeting, opinions on Bolivian and Cuban realities—and significant presents as well—were exchanged.

[Begin Escalona recording] Obviously, after the collapse of the socialist countries, which committed suicide, Cuba does not trade with those countries, and the blockade extends over 100 percent of our foreign trade relations. Cuba has its own debt. This debt has not been paid for years, because U.S. pressures make it impossible for Cuba to secure new infusions of money to promote investments. Cuba does not intend to always live this way. We are developing basic programs. The first is the food program, which seeks to achieve the self-sufficiency of our people in the basic field of food. Following the efforts made in 1992, and compared with 1989 production, we tripled food production. [end recording]

The presence of the Cuban parliamentarian corresponds with the creation of the Bolivian-Cuban Parliamentarian League [Liga Parlamentaria Boliviano-Cubana] which has the basic goal of exchanging opinions on the realities facing the two Latin American countries.

U.S. Reaction to Cuban Relations Criticized

PY2201144593 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The creation of a Bolivian-Cuban Parliamentarian League has caused discomfort in the U.S. Embassy. Last night, during a ceremony in the national Congress, Bolivia joined this Ibero-American institution.

Guillermo Bedregal, deputy for the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], took this opportunity to complain about the Americans by saying the U.S. Embassy in our country has no reason for feeling discomfort:

[Begin Bedregal recording] I would not dare to say [words indistinct] that kind of position by the U.S. Embassy. This is a sovereign decision by the Bolivian Congress, and I do not think that anyone should become uncomfortable with that, right? Under no circumstances should the fact that we have a cooperative relation with the United States mean that we should be absolutely subordinated to it in a field (?like) an institutional mechanism of friendship to preserve peace, coexistence, and mutual understanding among peoples. [end recording]

The discomfort of the U.S. Embassy in our country was evident when Deputy Luis Fernandez Fajalde reported that the embassy sent a letter to the Chamber of Deputies International Policy Committee protesting the presence of Cuban technical military officers:

[Begin Fernandez Fajalde recording] Unfortunately, we consider it an inappropriate letter, given that the U.S. ambassador's commentary is aimed at a subject that, within a framework of sovereignty, must be solved by the legislative branch. He complained about the presence of members of the Cuban National Higher Studies, who visited our country a few weeks ago. The U.S. ambassador objects that we did not question the presence of the Cubans like was done with the presence of U.S. troops and experts who have been in our country.

We decided to return the letter because we consider it inappropriate and because a diplomatic representation cannot, in any circumstances, affect or suggest the behavior of a government branch. [end recording]

Brazil

First Voting Round Approves Fiscal Reform Bill

PY2101194893 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Report by Mair Lucy Vilela from the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia]

[Text] The fiscal adjustment bill, which was approved in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday, will be submitted to a second vote as of next week. The bill foresees the creation of a new tax on financial movements. Since the bill modifies the Constitution, it must be submitted to two votes in the Chamber of Deputies and then two other votes in the Senate.

An agreement among party leaders guaranteed the approval of the fiscal reform bill during the Chamber of Deputies session last night, during which 365 deputies approved the bill while 87 voted against it.

The main issue that was approved is the creation of the IPMF [Imposto Provisorio sobre Movimentacoes Financeiras], Temporary Tax on Financial Movements. This tax will charge 0.25 percent on all bank account withdrawals and financial applications.

The lower house did not approve however, the application of IPI [Tax on Manufactured Products] on fuels, Value Added Tax, the breaking of bank secrecy, and the creation of fiscal courts.

The text that was approved yesterday must now be submitted to another vote in the Chamber of Deputies and two others in the Senate. This is because the fiscal reform bill proposes changes to the Constitution. In order to put into effect the IPMF, it must first be regulated by a complementary law, something that may be ready by April.

[Begin Deputy Roberto Freire recording] We must first define the facts. We must discuss which financial transactions will be taxed in the states and municipalities, and in the inter-bank transactions. [end recording]

[Begin Deputy Luis Eduardo Magalhaes recording] I think there will be enough time for society to understand what this temporary tax is about, so that people may exert pressure on their congressmen to make them modify their position. [end recording]

The lower house has just approved the last controversial section of the fiscal reform bill. By 315 votes to 98, the deputies authorized public companies to declare bankruptcy and to call their creditors.

This means that the first voting round in the Chamber of Deputies has concluded. Five congressional sessions must take place before the second voting round is held. Since the fifth session may take place by the end of next week, the second voting round could be in the first week of February, possibly on 2 February because it is difficult to obtain quorum on Fridays or Mondays. In order to approve this bill, 302 votes are necessary.

Strategic Data Stolen From Central Bank

PY2101220093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Finance Minister Paulo Haddad reported yesterday that computer diskettes containing strategic and secret information on the Brazilian exchange reserves had been stolen from the Central Bank. The Federal Police have been investigating the Central Bank theft since yesterday afternoon.

Minister Haddad informed President Itamar Franco about the theft as he was leaving Planalto Palace. Franco then immediately decided that the theft should be made public, and that the reserve figures for the last three months be revealed. In October the reserves were $19.3 billion, in November $19.8 billion, and up to 31 December $19 billion. It was possible to disclose these figures because the information was registered in other departments of the Central Bank.

Workers Party Rejects Government Offers

PY2101120593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Even before President Itamar Franco formally invited former Sao Paulo Mayor Luiza Erundina of the PT [Workers Party] to join his government as administration secretary with the rank of minister, PT President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva strongly rejected the idea. Lula was told by Pedro Simon, the government leader in the Senate, that Franco would invite Erundina. Lula said he does not agree with party members participating in the cabinet, adding that he will ask the president not to invite any of his party to serve in the cabinet.

Minister Says Stricter TV Standards Possible

PY2101222493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jan 93 p 8

[Text] Brasilia—Justice Minister Mauricio Correa yesterday said that the Ministry could introduce stricter standards into regulation 733 of 19 October 1990 which sets the ratings for radio and television programs and public shows.

Mauricio Correa said that the regulation could be reviewed in view of the increase in scenes of violence and sex in television programs. The minister said he was shocked by a video recorded by a group of evangelical assemblymen showing scenes of sexual relations between a dog and a woman, and scenes of group sex taken from television programs.

"I was shocked by what I saw. I cannot believe that something so repugnant could be broadcast by a television station. This type of thing could prompt us to revise the regulations for classifying television films," Correa said.

The minister said that there is today a "certain promiscuity" in soap operas, and particularly in films, which might provoke behavioral changes in viewers. Correa said that the Constitution forbids censoring, and allows television stations to establish their own programs freely.

"Television stations must set their own standards and control excesses," the minister said.

Correa is also alarmed by the scenes of violence in normal programs.

"The last time I visited my grandson he hit me with a club. He said he was someone called Jaspion," Mauricio Correa complained.

Up until 29 December, the Justice Ministry official responsible for the regulation of television program ratings was Carlos Eduardo de Araujo Lima Filho, then national secretary for Rights of Citizens and Justice, but he was dismissed after being arrested in a Brasilia motel in the company of a woman and a call girl carrying drugs.

Chile

Senate Impeaches Supreme Court Justice Cereceda

PY2101173193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] By 25 votes to 20, the Senate approved the motion to impeach Supreme Court Justice Hernan Cereceda for serious neglect of duty. This motion had already been passsed by the Chamber of Deputies.

Though only 24 votes were necessary to pass the motion, the ruling coalition managed to get 25 to vote Justice Cereceda out of office. Twenty-two votes came from Christian Democratic Party senators, Socialist Party

senators, Radical Party senators, and Social Democratic Party senators, and three votes came from National Renewal Party senators—Sebastian Pinera, Ignacio Perez Walker, and Hugo Ortiz de Filippi.

The vote was made on Chapter 3 [not further identified], referring to the delay in passing sentence in the Carlos Carreno case. Cereceda had 15 days to vote on this case but did so only after nearly six months.

The miscarriage of justice charge was dismissed by 23 votes to 22.

As a result of the Senate vote, Justice Cereceda is removed from office and has been disqualified from holding any public office for five years.

The motion to impeach Justices Lionel Beraud and German Valenzuela, and Army Prosecutor General Fernando Torres Silva was not passed. It did not manage to garner the 24 votes necessary to get a majority.

Voting started at 1630 and lasted until 0100. Each senator was given the floor for a maximum of 15 minutes to present his point of view.

Relatives of missing detainees, including Professor Alfonso Chanfreau's widow, later applauded the result of the vote, displayed a banner with the words quote, Supreme Court Protects Criminal, unquote, and sang the national anthem. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Court Ruling Threatens Use of Glyphosate

PA2201152293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] A Constitutional Court ruling is on the verge of making it illegal to eradicate poppy fields by spraying them with glyphosate. This decision and others placing legal obstacles in the struggle against drug trafficking are endangering 140 billion pesos in international aid. Not everything is bad, however. There are positive actions in the program to confiscate drug trafficking assets.

Nearly 200 airplanes formerly used by drug traffickers now belong to the Armed Forces, and 340 have either been returned or are being held by their owners while investigations are carried out. Approximately 1,529 sets of communication equipment have gone from the hands of drug traffickers to the security forces. The state has also received 220 million pesos and more than $47.6 million. Seventeen accounts are frozen in Santa Fe de Bogota and Medellin banks. Those accounts hold 2.199 billion pesos, presumably the profit of drug trafficking.

In addition to the Armed Forces, municipalities, government institutions, and other organizations have benefited. This includes such organizations as the Claret Homes, which rehabilitate youths at El Bizcocho Farm, which was confiscated from Pablo Escobar; the clinic for children of drug addicts, which will operate in a house confiscated from Miriam Libreros de Rodriguez Orejuela in Santa Fe de Bogota; and the Prosecutor General's Office, which received property confiscated from Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha in northern Santa Fe de Bogota. This is how it looks today, three years after it was confiscated, with the deterioration caused by time and the search for secret hiding places. According to the narcotics director, the lawyers who are demanding the return of some of these properties will receive unexpected help if the Constitutional Court adopts a proposal it is now studying.

[Begin Narcotics Director Gabriel de Vega] If the certificate on the lack of information on drug trafficking is declared unconstitutional, the state would have to return countless properties. [end recording]

As can be seen, it would be another victory for the drug traffickers, but one obtained through others.

Police Commander, Mayor To Attend Meeting

PA2201142293 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Alvaro Ayala]

[Text] The Santa Fe de Bogota Metropolitan Police have been ordered to be out in the streets to protect citizens, Commander General Oscar Eduardo Pelaez Carmona has said. In a few minutes, he will leave for the mayor's office, where he and Mayor Jaime Castro will chair a Security Council to take steps to prevent terrorist attacks such as the ones that took place last night and in the early morning hours of 22 January. Gen. Pelaez Carmona confirmed the two alleged delinquents who were involved in the 21 January explosions are being held at police headquarters.

[Begin recording] [Pelaez] As long as the police, political or administrative authorities, inspectors, and citizens work together, crime does not prevail in any city. I am happy to see the mayor's office is fully supporting the police with resources and housing. This is enabling us to work with high morale and great enthusiasm, as can be seen in the major arrests we made. We are expanding the work to continue a professional and technical operation. Any other information will be provided following a Security Council meeting the mayor has summoned this morning.

[Unidentified Reporter] Not long ago the mayor was asked if the military will take control of the city, as has happened in Medellin. He replied that the police did not have enough personnel.

[Pelaez] We have discussed with the mayor the lack of police personnel in the city. With the support of the mayor's office, we are organizing three police training schools that can graduate 1,000 agents, including 300 female police officers. Besides being beautiful, women are very efficent in their jobs because they are often more dedicated than men. Two of these schools will begin to

function the first week of February. The third school will open the first week of April. We are doing this to increase the number of agents. The number of police agents in Santa Fe de Bogota is three times smaller than the police in cities such as Paris, Rome, and New York.

For your information, Paris, with a population of 6.5 million, has a police force of 28,000; Santa Fe Bogota, with a population of aproximately 6 million, has 7,000 police agents to patrol the streets. We do need more agents and resources. The government and the mayor's office are making a big effort to give us the tools to be efficient. Criminals are becoming experts and activists. The police need to be one step ahead, not behind, criminals—not just in terms of material goods, but also in terms of adequate legislation. [end recording]

Arrest Ordered for Two Escobar Associates

PA2101234693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The Attorney General's Office has just ordered the preventive arrest of two of Pablo Escobar's associates, who were captured by the authorities. They are John Jairo Posada Valencia, alias Titi, and Leonidas Vargas, accused of illegal weapons possession, terrorism, and drug trafficking.

The Attorney General's Office ordered the preventive arrest of Humberto Callejas, second in command of the Popular Liberation Army dissident wing. Callejas, accused of rebellion and of carrying false public documents, was captured at the beginning of January.

Escobar Lieutenant Surrenders To Authorities

PA2201162393 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] We have a last minute report. A member of the Medellin Cartel, apparently one of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's lieutenants, has surrendered to authorities here in Santa Fe de Bogota. Here is Carlos Gomez with the report.

[Gomez] Good morning. Attention. Taking advantage of Decrees 3030, 2047, and 303 issued by the government, Juan David Russi Ramirez, 30, surrendered to Colombian justice authorities a few minutes ago. Russi Ramirez entered the Prosecutor General's Office a few minutes ago accompanied by Gustavo Salazar Pineda, his attorney.

At this time, a faceless prosecutor is interrogating Juan David Russi Ramirez, who was wanted by Colombian authorities. The Prosecutor General's Office in the next few hours will determine the prison where he will be sent after taking advantage of Decrees 3030, 2047, and 303. These decrees establish special provisions for those who willingly surrender to authorities.

It has been established that the faceless prosecutor is interrogating Juan David Russi Ramirez, and that the charges against him will be announced later. Official sources indicated there are several charges against Pablo Escobar Gaviria's lieutenant.

[Announcer] Carlos, people are wondering how Russi Ramirez is linked to Escobar Gaviria and the Medellin Cartel?

[Gomez] Judicial spokesmen stated that Russi Ramirez is one of Escobar Gaviria's lieutenants, but at this time his ties to Escobar Gaviria are not known. It is likely he was a member of the gangs of hired assassins operating in Medellin. In recent months, he was apparently responsible for coordinating attacks against police in the Antioquia Department capital.

Underground Base Built To Fight Guerrillas

PA2201040793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] The war against the rebels has led the Army to use tactics similar to those used in the Vietnam War. This is the case of La Pinuela, an underground base constructed in Antioquia. It is the only underground base in the country. Like small green ants, the counterguerrilla soldiers of the Pedro Nel Ospina Battalion's front guard remain 3 meters underground, on alert 24 hours a day. Here is what Commander Edgar Velandia, in charge of the base, told Reporter Miriam Ortiz:

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] What advantages does a base like this have as opposed to other bases?

[Velandia] It has two; first, the security and protection of the personnel who live at the installation and, second, the swift, effective support that can be given to counterguerrilla units that might be harassed or that may come under attack in this area. [end recording]

Given its geographic location, La Pinuela has become the most important base in Antioquia. At the same time, is has become the guerrillas' main target. In the short time since its construction, the base has been harassed on several occasions.

[Being Private Luis Ospina recording] We were here, just like any other day, and suddenly we saw the guerrillas, right there in those trees. When we started to come out they simply fled. There were approximately 70 guerrillas. [end recording]

The base is so well camouflaged that anyone traveling along the highway from Medellin to Santa Fe de Bogota thinks it consists only of a sentry post. If one goes down several meters, however, long corridors lead to offices, dormitories, communication rooms, and weapons and combat equipment storerooms. Lined up against the walls, propped up by wooden posts, are the soldiers' bunk beds. The base has one main entrance and several exits that lead to the trenches that surround the base. On top of the base is a helicopter pad on which up to two

aircraft can land in case of an emergency. The construction by the Army of this type of base is part of the Colombian Armed Forces modernization program.

Editorial Shows Concern Over Clinton Policy

PA2201040293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Jan 93 p 4a

[Editorial: "Expectation"]

[Text] In an atmosphere of great expectation, both in Colombia and in the rest of the world, Mr. Bill Clinton takes office on 20 January as U.S. President. The Democratic Party, absent from the presidency for 12 years, returns to the White House loaded with old and new figures and, most importantly, with a work agenda intended primarily to spruce up the U.S. economy.

Apparently the idea from the 1960's and 1970's of using government intervention to encourage development of "strategic" sectors through trade protectionism and government subsidies will return in full force. This is how it seems, at least, given certain appointments Clinton has made and given the argument that has started in the U.S. media and academia, and in the rest of the world.

This is no laughing matter, because it has implications on the direction Latin America will take, dictated in part by the very same U.S. financial and university circles. It is nothing more than freeing the markets on the assumption that this produces greater economic growth, and making the productive sectors in various countries efficient and competitive internationally. These ideas made the continent "open up" to the world and changed the stand of the famous Economic Commission for Latin America, whose original views are now considered obsolete, costly, and inappropriate for encouraging progress at the end of the 20th century.

With the idea of economic freedom—old but used very little since the 1930's—came free trade, the elimination of huge tax incentives, free trade agreements (dominated by the Mexico-United States-Canada free trade treaty), and the speeding up of integration processes, like what took place in Venezuela. All this is aimed at favoring consumers and ending once and for all systems of government intervention that more often than not end up supporting those groups that can put the most pressure on the authorities, to the detriment of the poorer classes.

Thus, a change of U.S. economic policy together with the intensification of European protection would leave us in Latin America out in the cold or, as the editorial of a Colombian publication described it, leave us with the "also rans." Particularly in our case, a setback of this sort would be regrettable. The Gaviria administration has made a great effort to connect Colombia with the rest of the world. Substantial trade benefits were achieved for Colombian exports, first with the EEC, and then with the United States. The Gaviria administration has made entrepreneurs think and sell their products internationally without affecting or harming any particular sector, as the prophets of doom said a few years back.

We hope the expectation of a radically different U.S. economic policy does not become a reality, which would make Latin America's economic recovery difficult. If this is the case, the people in the area will face a new frustration that will jeopardize their hope for a better future.

Car Bomb Explodes in Capital; Several Injured

PA2201031493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0225 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Excerpts] We now bring you information on the car bomb that exploded in Santa Fe de Bogota. German (Achanar) has a report.

[Begin German (Achanar) recording] We regret to report that several persons have been injured by a car bomb that exploded on 72d Street and 7th Avenue in Santa Fe de Bogota. Several buildings, two banks, and a medical insurance office were also damaged. We have a report by one of the workers of Gino's Pizza, one of the shops destroyed by the explosion, who managed to save his life because he left a few minutes prior to the explosion of the car bomb. We apologize to our listeners, and hope you will understand but there is great confusion here at this time. [passage omitted]

That has been the dramatic testimony of one of the workers of the pizza shop destroyed on the night of 21 January by the explosion of a car bomb. The offices of the Voluntary Medical Insurance Company, the Central Mortgage Bank, and Citibank have also been destroyed. The facade of La Andina Insurance Company and a bakery have been severely damaged. The windows of the buildings in the area have all been broken.

There are many tall buildings in this area in the northern part of the capital city. It is terrible to see how the windows have fallen from the upper stories. We will continue here, where the Metropolitan Police are conducting an investigation. There are many members of the Red Cross and several ambulances present. [end recording]

Caracol has learned that about 15 persons have been injured by the explosion of this car bomb. It was a Renault that exploded on 72d Street and 7th Avenue. The bomb has damaged the windows of the buildings close to the explosion, close to Gino's Pizza Shop.

Second Terrorist Attack in Capital

PA2201140893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1157 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 22 Jan (AFP)—A second terrorist attack was perpetrated after midnight on 22

January, apparently by terrorists from Medellin, headquarters of the cocaine cartel led by Pablo Escobar, General Oscar Pelaez, commander of the Metropolitan Police, has told AFP.

The officer reported that 50 kg of dynamite exploded in the exclusive neighborhood of Pasadena (northern Santa Fe de Bogota). Six passersby and local residents were injured by flying glass from nearby windows shattered in the blast.

Meanwhile, a car bomb exploded on Chile Avenue (72d Street) and 7th Avenue, very close to the residence of the U.S. ambassador, causing extensive damage to five office buildings and injuring 11 people, General Pelaez said.

* Alfonso Lopez Accused of Improper Conduct

* Accusations Outlined

93SM0121A Santa Fe de Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 14 Dec 92 pp 28-33

[First paragraph is CROMOS introduction]

[Text] When EL ESPECTADOR's readers woke up on Sunday, 6 December, they did not know the bitter taste that would accompany their breakfast a few minutes later. Page one of the Cano family's newspaper reported a maneuver through which two sons of former President Lopez Michelsen, one of whom is now minister of agriculture, were trying to "obtain property titles from INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] for an estate close to the Cusiana oilfields, an area that will benefit from the Piedmont Plains Development Plan."

This case, which the newspaper reported after a thorough investigation, has worsened the nation's climate of demoralization, causing public opinion surveys to list corruption as the leading and most harmful of Colombia's problems.

History Repeats Itself

In many political circles this case has awakened memories of the famous phrase of Laureano Gomez, the "Cato" of the Republic during the 1940's. When criticizing the wheeling and dealing of those times, he coined the phrase, "cover up...cover up," which forced President Lopez Pumarejo to resign. Lopez's resignation came as a consequence of the criticisms made of the then "son of the executive," Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, who was mixed up in the Handel scandal that was brought to the attention of the Senate by Enrique Caballero Escobar and Jorge Eliecer Gaitan. From those debates emerged the Gaitan slogan "For the moral restoration of the Republic."

Today, say some observers, history seems to be repeating itself, not as a tragedy but as a comedy. The person directly implicated now is the minister of agriculture, Alfonso Lopez Caballero, the owner of 931 hectares of a 4,390-hectare cattle ranch to which he is seeking title from INCORA, an agency directly under the Ministry of Agriculture.

EL ESPECTADOR's Accusations

Several senators immediately requested that the minister explain this.

EL ESPECTADOR's charges are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Alfonso Lopez Caballero (the minister of agriculture), his brother Juan Manuel, and three employees of his family (Luis Alfonso Castro Sandoval, the manager of the company through which the Lopez family obtained government loans during their father's term; Roberto Vargas Duran, their family's civil engineer; and Jaime Bareto Rodriguez, accountant) are asking INCORA to award them individual titles to the five properties into which the Arizona Ranch (4,390 hectares) was subdivided; the property is located in the Cusiana oilfields area.

The ranch is located near La Libertad, a property owned by Juan Manuel Lopez. It is close to the Cusiana oil wells, in an area that will be affected by the Piedmont Plains Development Plan, which means it may receive certain benefits.

The Lopez family paid $48 million for the rights to claim the estate with its seven houses and an apartment, all with contents, 550 hectares of planted pastureland, several outbuildings, modern stables, 90 km of farm roads, a six-ton 1983 tractor with a posthole-digger, rake, plow, and tow hitch, a radiotelephone, a solar electricity plant, several windmills, and cement and wood stakes to support the wire fencing surrounding the power plant. The main residential house, located in the center of the property being sought by Alfonso Lopez Caballero, is 36 km by road from the town of Aguazul, 22 by rough road from Mani, and 31 from Tauramena, five minutes flight time from Yopal and in winter, one hour by boat on the Cusiana River down to Mani.

The purchase was recorded as deed No. 390 of 1990 in Public Notary Office No. 12 of Bogota. The sellers were Manuel Franco Vasquez and Rosa Archila de Franco. They say they had occupied the property peacefully and uninterruptedly for over 25 years. But they only have income statements beginning in 1985.

The deed records say that the Francos acquired the property from Jose Ciceron Guaque (no date given) who had acquired it from Maria Quijano de Roselli (no date given). She and her husband Augusto had acquired the rights granting possession from Emiliano Chaparro, according to deed No. 912 dated 27 November 1937 by the principal notary's office of Sogamoso. He and his wife took possession of the farm more than 23 years before 27 November 1937, that is, before 27 November 1914.

INCORA's general manager, Fernando Corrales Cruz, said the applicants asked that any claim application filed in Bogota be halted, but the records show no evidence of such a suspension. And there was an entry dated 23 November.

The proceedings began while Alfonso Lopez Caballero was ambassador to France. Although the title application has no issue date, the authentication seals indicate that it was filed after 4 July 1991.

The attorney is Victor Othon Gomez M., a former INCORA official who is a specialist in uncultivated lands. None of the documents he provided is dated.

The new Constitution took effect on 5 July 1991. Paragraph 1 of Article 180 states that members of Congress and, by extension, high-ranking executive officials, may not "engage in transactions, either in their own name or in the name of another party, with government agencies or with persons who handle taxes."

On 7 November 1991, Alfonso Lopez Caballero was appointed minister of agriculture. INCORA operates under that ministry.

In two undated letters, attorney Gomez told the INCORA agent in Yopal: "I am writing to ask you to order the suspension of the referenced proceedings." The agent checked this and found no cause for such a request, and, therefore, asked the attorney to explain this to him.

This agent admitted that because of his breach of confidence, the minister was informed of the progress and contents of EL ESPECTADOR's investigation.

The title requests for the five properties (El Hatillo, Matepalma, Cachicamo, Cachicamos No. 1, and Gualas) were all handled by the same attorney, using identical documents. These properties result from the subdivision of a single ranch; they are shown in a single survey map and are adjacent to each other. The transactions were conducted simultaneously, but in separate proceedings.

Libardo Romero, head of INCORA's Infrastructure and Settlements Division in Bogota, found seven serious technical flaws (letter 029154), and noted that "the maps do not show the name of the surveyor responsible for the surveys, and contain only an illegible signature." In another paragraph he states: "After comparing the number shown in the maps as the registration number of the person responsible for the surveys and the number in the surveyor's field notes, it was found that no such registration number was issued by the National Professional Board of Topography, and for that reason, it is invalid." The surveyor is bogus.

According to INCORA staffers, the claim map was not carefully prepared and does not show the true dimensions of the property. Although the deeds mention 4,390 hectares, the property might extend further toward the west where the oilfields operated by BP Exploration are located, and also to the south, where the 20,000 hectares owned by the family are to be restored to productivity under the development plans for the Eastern Plains drafted by the National Planning Office, with the active input of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Statement From the Lopez Family

The Lopez family says, though, that there is no conflict of interest or impropriety in the case uncovered by EL ESPECTADOR. An unsigned statement says:

Juan Manuel Lopez Caballero is a farmer by occupation and is not engaged in public life. He purchased, for an agreed upon price, what is known as a cattle ranch in the plains region, that is, livestock with land occupied for decades by rural people who legitimately sold him their business.

All that happened, as the real estate deeds prove, before his brother became minister of agriculture.

So what is the impropriety?

Later, and also before his brother became a minister, he transferred 15 percent of the cattle ranch to his brother in payment of a debt. As soon as Alfonso Lopez Caballero was appointed minister, Juan Manuel Lopez Caballero sent a memo to INCORA asking that the title proceedings be suspended while his brother was a minister.

This memo was on file in INCORA and no proceedings have been initiated since then.

Where is the impropriety?

Other businessmen who have been known in Casanare for a long time did the same thing and they are not, as EL ESPECTADOR alleges, employees of Juan Manuel Lopez.

Where is the abuse? The report invents a new legal concept, conflict of interest by extension or by analogy, and says that since parliamentarians cannot engage in transactions involving the state, neither, by extension, can ambassadors. This was done in order to create a conflict of interest for Lopez before he became a minister.

The reporter adds that the government's plans for the development of this area are inspired by the intention of increasing the value of the Arizona Ranch, as if such plans were up to the minister of agriculture. He also maliciously insinuates that this award of uncultivated land has something to do with the Cusiana oil, as if uncultivated land were awarded with subsoil mineral rights.

The very fact of requesting title to the property as uncultivated land indicates that petroleum is not involved. They asked the government for acknowledgment of uninterrupted possession for over half a century and acknowledgment of the corresponding improvements made so that the property could be certified as uncultivated land. This is a perfectly legitimate proceeding, like obtaining a passport, if certain requirements are met, or like the process involved in getting a driver's license. It is a right, not a

giveaway, and still the Lopez family decided not to pursue this process while Lopez Caballero was a minister.

The statement—said a number of members of Congress—leaves many points confused, and the minister should return to Colombia (he was in Rome attending an FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization] session) to make his position clear.

The statement, they maintain, bears no responsible signature. Nor does it list the price paid for the property. According to the document, the property is "what is known as a cattle ranch in the plains region, that is, livestock with land that has been occupied for decades by rural people who legitimately have sold him their business." Nor does it clarify any of the charges made in EL ESPECTADOR.

The news director of RCN [National Radio Network], Juan Gossain, commented in his news show: **"Pardon me for saying this, but the figures do not agree. According to data in the deed that EL ESPECTADOR published, Minister Lopez owns almost 25 percent of the Arizona Ranch, approximately 24 percent. Yet the statement released by sources close to Lopez Caballero says that his brother Juan Manuel transferred 15 percent to him in payment of a debt.** The Lopez Caballero family says that the three other citizens who are listed as co-owners of the Arizona Ranch are not employees of the Lopez Caballero family, but independent businessmen. They say that Alfonso Lopez Caballero, even though he was ambassador to Paris at that time, was not barred from engaging in transactions such as attempts to obtain land titles from INCORA. So, with our constant respect for the impartiality of the facts, we have presented both what EL ESPECTADOR said and what the representatives of the Lopez Caballero family maintain. We will have to wait to see how this case develops; it has created a great stir in national public opinion."

Attorney General and Congress Must Intervene

This issue has drawn the attention of EL TIEMPO, which gave it a big headline on its front page on Monday, 7 December, briefly summarizing EL ESPECTADOR's information and reproducing in its entirety the Lopez family's statement.

The Cano family's newspaper [EL ESPECTADOR] interviewed a number of personalities about the issue and came to the conclusion that the attorney general and Congress should take action in "the Lopez case."

Monday's lead story emphasized that "if such an attempt by the former president's family is proven, the minister of agriculture should resign and be subjected to a congressional investigation."

"Certain Families and Their Children Think They Own Colombia"

The head of the Senate Ethics Committee, Fernando Mendoza, said: "Based on what has been published, I believe there is a conflict of interest in the actions of Minister Lopez Caballero; it seems to me that the attorney general should act in this case. The information provided by EL ESPECTADOR is quite serious, and the public should be informed of the truth of these allegations." A conservative candidate for the nomination, Juan Diego Jaramillo, said: "All these things are happening because there has been a decline in public morality in the Republic." A representative in the Chamber, Ramiro Lucio, said: "If this is true, Colombian society and Congress must criticize this openly." In Colombia, added Lucio, "we have to stop certain families and their children who think they own Colombia. The article surprised me and so I insist that the public must know in depth what seems to be a new offense against the nation."

Children of the Executive

Children of the executive have always been a danger—both to their parents and to institutional equilibrium. Whether through their own fault or not, they have often gotten entangled in questionable and generally embarrassing pursuits.

Accustomed to power since their childhood, they cannot accept losing it, and so they seek out convenient and profitable deals, either economic or political. So at many times and in many places in the world they get mixed up in shady ventures. Envy, some will ask. Possibly, but it is true that they like to dance on the tightrope of events.

In the case of the Lopez family, Juan Manuel, though claiming to be a "farmer by occupation" who "is not engaged in public life," does actually have a public life, since he was a prosecutor under former President Betancur, and his move into agriculture at "La Libertad" almost cost his father, Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, then president of Colombia, his job. Something similar happened at another time to Felipe Lopez, today president of SEMANA and a member of the club of children of the executive, and who also can be found on television news; he came under fire for his contracts with the National Federation of Coffee Growers while his father was chief executive. Among other results, those controversies led to the departure of the columnist KLIM from EL TIEMPO.

And now the eldest of the three Lopez brothers, Alfonso, minister of agriculture, is the key figure in a "conflict of interest scandal" similar to those in which his closest relatives have also been involved. Are these injustices things that go along with the condition of being children of the chief executive?

That might be, but what cannot be justified is that they continue to play with the fire of power in circumstances as difficult as those which Colombia is now facing.

The Disturbing Wave of Administrative Corruption

Some national political observers have been concerned about the wave of administrative corruption that has

spread throughout Colombia. They say that cases like those of Collor de Mello in Brazil, Fujimori in Peru, and the Venezuelan case (where the coup attempts and the election defeat of Democratic Action are explained by the general demoralization) are seriously influencing broad segments of public opinion. All the polls show the public's d ssatisfaction about administrative corruption, the same corruption that is now considered the worst problem facing these countries.

"How long will this go on?" is a question asked by columnists and editorial writers from all over the civic and political spectrum. A new Constitution was written, they say, to deal with abuses and lack of responsibility. "And now we have a brazen attempt to violate it," they say with obvious disappointment.

The theme of ministerial conflicts of interest has once again become a hot topic. It will certainly be one of the leading issues in the next election campaign.

* Commission Reviews Charges

93SM0121B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Dec 92 p 9A

[First paragraph is EL TIEMPO introduction]

[Text] The minister of agriculture stated that the law did not bar him from engaging in this transaction.

The Fifth Senate Commission has cleared Minister of Agriculture Alfonso Lopez Caballero of charges of influence peddling in his acquisition of the Arizona Ranch in Casanare, feeling that the accusations against him were not well-founded.

This was stated in a report signed by several liberal members of Congress, Hugo Serrano, Jaime Calderon, Luis Guillermo Sorzano, Eduardo Gechen Turbay, Amilkar Acosta, Salomon Nader, Alvaro Araujo Noguera, and one conservative, Gustavo Rodriguez.

However, one senator, Eduardo Chavez of Democratic Alliance M-19, filed a minority report expressing his dissatisfaction with the minister's explanations, finding them weak.

The debate took place on Tuesday, and lasted until late at night. Reports of irregularities in the request for title to the Arizona lands were recently published by EL ESPECTADOR.

Lopez Caballero said that the law did not bar him from engaging in this transaction.

He said that he had acted properly in requesting, through his attorney, suspension of the title proceedings for the property three days after he became minister of agriculture.

Imprecise Geographic Location

Lopez Caballero added that the Arizona Ranch is not in the Cusiana oilfields area, as the property is 60 km from the petroleum operation.

Senator Chavez said that according to a scale map prepared by the IGAC [Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute], the distance from the ranch to the oilfields is no more than 20 km. "Why would such a knowledgeable man make such an error?" he asked.

This statement by Chavez engaged the commission in discussions about the relativity of distance measurements in the Eastern Plains.

Some senators, like Gustavo Rodriguez Vargas and Alvaro Araujo Noguera, consider the IGAC measurement invalid. In that region the terrain is quite irregular, and in some cases distances when traveling by road are relative, and are not precisely the same as distances listed on a map.

Chavez displayed a map of the Casanare department which, he said, was given him by Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] which shows the Arizona Ranch among the Santiago de las Atalayas, Cusiana, and Pueblo Viejo oilfields. To the side of the property are marked four operational wells: Santiago One, Santiago Two, Santiago Three, and Santiago Four.

Senators Luis Guillermo Sorzano Espinosa and Hugo Serrano agreed that it was being overly suspicious to think that the minister had designs on the Cusiana oilfields. "I see no connection between the ranch and Cusiana," said Serrano.

"If there is a property containing oil, that fact does not connect the oil with anything, especially if the property is classified as uncultivated land, as that confers no [oil] rights," said Sorzano.

Chavez stated that he told the Fifth Commission of the location of the ranch in relation to Cusiana "because of the minister's imprecise statement that the wells were not in oilfields. Moreover, the proximity of the ranch to these fields does confer certain rights, for while the parcels do not benefit from any petroleum in the subsoil, they do benefit from the advantages and the development that come to rural areas with the discovery of crude."

Senator Araujo then said that the Arizona Ranch case "was being used to discredit a family. This same procedure was used against Lopez Pumarejo, Lopez Michelsen, and now against his children."

Restricting Uncultivated Lands

Senator Jose Raimundo Sojo Zambrano of the National Salvation Movement said there are restrictions barring Minister Lopez from engaging in this type of business deal.

Sojo Zambrano maintained that Lopez Caballero was a member of the board of directors of INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform], and that made it impossible for him to apply for title to uncultivated lands.

In his view, awarding title deeds to uncultivated lands to persons of well recognized economic resources is inconsistent with the feeling of distributive justice that should prevail, especially as local settlers, according to Sojo, are the ones who deserve the land they have cultivated, and not "armchair farmers."

Sojo cited Article 13 of Law 30 of 1988, which prohibits awarding uncultivated lands to persons who own property. This article also states that such land should not be awarded to corporations, but to individuals.

"INCORA refused to give information to my legal aide when he asked when Minister Lopez ceased to be a member of the institute's board. I believe, though, that it was sometime in 1989," said Sojo.

* Continuing Investigation

93SM0121C Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 19 Dec 92 p 10A

[First paragraph is EL ESPECTADOR introduction]

[Text] The prosecutor for agrarian affairs has recommended an administrative investigation of the minister of agriculture and of INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] officials, and a criminal review of the matter by the Office of the Attorney General. The investigation of "La Libertad II" is now in the hands of the Prosecution Department.

Three deputy prosecutors have found legal, administrative, criminal, and ethical defects in transactions related to the claim by Minister of Agriculture Alfonso Lopez Caballero, his brother, and three other individuals concerning property located on the edge of the Cusiana River in the Casanare oil-producing region.

One of them, the prosecutor for agarian affairs, Luis Augusto Cangrejo Cobos, also requested that the possibility be considered that the territory sought—by the minister, his brother Juan Manuel Lopez, and three of their employees—might instead be declared "a special territorial state reserve," a category established by recent public order decrees, according to which land may not be awarded to private individuals under any circumstances.

Cangrejo Cobos believes there are reasons to investigate Minister Lopez Caballero, the officials handling the proceeding in INCORA, and the attorney handling the matter, Victor Othon Gomez, and to conduct a criminal investigation of the behavior of the fifth claimant, Roberto Vargas Duran, who sought title to part of the property even though he had no grounds to support his application.

The second and third Administrative Review prosecutors concluded that Lopez Caballero, "at the time the approach was made to INCORA to award title to the Arizona Ranch properties, was not barred from engaging in this procedure." However, they noted that "the request for suspension of the award should have been made before he became minister of agriculture and the suspension request should have stated that this request covered all of the land whose award was sought, and not solely that of the hectares in his name and in the name of his brother, Juan Manuel."

The Transactions

The agrarian prosecutor felt that "while it is true that in the transactions to award this property to the Lopez Caballero brothers, a request for suspension was submitted, it is no less true that there was no ruling on this on the part of INCORA. The agent handling the case, despite having this information, did not comply with the request to invoke this cause for suspension, dated 11 February 1992; INCORA continued with the topographical survey, including the properties for which a suspension of this proceeding had been requested; this was handled by the same INCORA agent."

Cangrejo Cobos's preliminary investigation also found that the five applicants for titles to the Arizona Ranch had omitted to submit to INCORA some fundamental information, such as the names and sizes of properties owned by the applicants, their spouses or permanent companions, and minor children, in order to determine if they met the requirements for such an award.

"Without further examination," notes the report, "the legal requirements were considered to have been met. This administrative negligence demonstrated by the INCORA officials who did not follow the control procedures prescribed by law merits censure.

According to the analysis by the Office of the Attorney General, in the Arizona Ranch case the law stipulates that economic operation of the property should be demonstrated and notes that "in the present case, there is talk of occupation exceeding 20 years, but only income statements for five years were produced. Those years corresponded to the persons transferring the property (the sellers of the Arizona Ranch). After the acquisition in February 1990, income statements for the acquirers (purchasers) were not produced."

The Fifth Applicant

After analyzing the application of a third partner of the Lopez brothers in the claim filed for "Libertad II," the agrarian prosecutor recommended sending this case to the Office of the Attorney General "to investigate the possible commission of illicit actions."

The investigators found that the ranch had been acquired through a real estate deed by four joint owners, but "it was divided for the sole purpose of being awarded as five properties," and the fifth applicant, although seeking title to one of the properties, "does not appear as a purchaser."

According to Cangrejo Cobos, "This situation is improper, as the title that is so many times mentioned states that the purchasers have received all of the ranch, and then this applicant, (Roberto) Vargas Duran,

appears seeking title through a claim of prior occupation, and also producing income statements from the sellers of the property, with whom he had no contractual arrangement at all, or at least, no such proof was shown."

State Reserve

The agrarian prosecutor states in his report that through Decree 1942 of 1992, the INCORA board of directors was authorized to declare special state territorial reserves those areas adjacent to or abutting petroleum exploration or exploitation areas. Since at the time of acquisition the state might have to pay expensive compensation fees, INCORA may remove the property sought from the general list of uncultivated lands and consider such properties not available for award to individuals. The drafter of the report requests the head of the Prosecution Department to recommend that INCORA analyze such a possibility.

Ecuador

President Duran-Ballen Addresses Congress

PA2101222993 Quito Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0023 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Speech by President Sixto Duran-Ballen at the National Congress in Quito—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...mandate, total link with the people to whom we in the Executive and Legislative Branches must answer. The era of sterile confrontation has ended. It is demanded from us that we begin an era of active solidarity. Messrs. Legislators, fellow citizens, I have not come with the desire to be original, informal, or innovative, but because of my belief in face-to-face dialogue, in honest discussion, in personal contact, in the mutual respect we deserve from each other, and in joint work for the great national causes that the country expects, regardless of private or ideological differences.

This direct contact is already yielding fruits in our international relations with various countries. This justifies my previous and future trips abroad. There is no reason why political negotiations in our own country should be any different. Do not forget that I have been one of you on more than one occasion. I held a legislative seat on several occasions. I am holding a dialogue with you today, as I have been doing with our people, even if I have not been publicizing it every day or making a big thing out of it. My duty is simply to hear the people either in formal meetings or in informal events. In those meetings with our people, which I not only held during the campaign but which I continue to hold as president, I have observed there is a long-suffering and disappointed Ecuador, but at the same time I have seen there is a deeply understanding and hopeful country. Its face is not disfigured by sectors that are small in number but large in their capacity to cause an uproar and insensitive to the demands for change. Such sectors delay or halt the new path for progress in peace and justice, which was clearly chosen only eight months ago and confirmed in July.

I plan to expand, deepen, and implement a period of nobility, honesty, and simplicity for which Ecuador voted to govern its democratic life. The objective of my information policy is to communicate with all my fellow countrymen when very special circumstances deem it necessary, without having to wait until 10 August when the Constitution establishes I must issue a report and without abusing your time and willingness to hear me. Therefore, I express thanks to you, Mr. President of the Congress, and through you to the honorable Congress, for accepting my request in this regard. Your acceptance confirms my respect for the Congress and guarantees the possibility for joint work in democracy, with patriotic compromises and without the need for shady agreements.

It has not been necessary to ascribe to weariness the disastrous situation we found when we saw from the inside the poverty of the so-called country on the march to understand and believe that urgent changes were needed. The large silent majority of Ecuadoreans accepted those changes with courage and faith. In less time than expected, the results are being seen, but their effects are not fully evident because the country has been mistakenly led to believe that the consequences of serious management of the state will be immediate, almost magical, and that they are gauged merely by the reduction of some prices. I ask you: How many times in the past were prices maintained or cut momentarily or artificially only to end up in a worse situation? If we had wanted to work for the short term, for tomorrow, for brief applause, or for temporary popularity, it would have been easy, very easy, extremely easy to spend our four years in office patching up and delaying actions so as to turn over to future leaders an even bigger crisis until our nation sinks into an unfathomable abyss.

I am not that kind of president. I do not want to be that kind of president, nor will I ever be that kind of president. I only ask you to recall the times when I was mayor of Quito. At the beginning, there were some difficulties because of the severe actions I adopted. Sooner than I thought, the usefulness of the actions I adopted, which largely led to progress now evident in the capital, was recognized. Other Ecuadoran cities hope to achieve similar progress. That maturity, support, and understanding from the population can still be seen, judging by the support given to the two government political forces in the recent cantonal elections.

The results provided by several scientific polls are also encouraging. According to these polls, the so-called popularity index of the president has not fallen under those corresponding to my predecessors during similar periods. On the contrary, the popularity index is improving, despite the fact of having undertaken severe and necessary measures.

The so-called tranquility index of the country, that is the degree of confidence of the country's residents with regard to the national situation and their stability expectations, is growing despite the fact that previous authorities did not implement deep corrective measures.

Encouraged by this consistent support, we have not lost time to regret what we inherited, and better yet, we have not lost time to determine responsibilities. These responsibilities fall under the authority of those who are called upon to control and administer justice in our society. I am referring to the other state branches, which I promised to respect and have indeed respected.

My objective has been to work uninterruptedly so as to overcome the crisis. We began working before taking office and redoubled our efforts after assuming power. In the task to confront what has been put off for years, we have made some mistakes and a few inconsistencies given the urgent pressure for solutions. However, we have had enough courage to rectify them, and we are firmly determined to improve the situation.

The importance of reducing and controlling inflation has not been mentioned or recognized enough. The first aspiration of Ecuadoreans was and continues to be to fight inflation. This is where we have begun. It is just, important, and necessary. By fighting inflation, we are benefiting the country in general, and not one sector in particular.

Consequently, we can state that social policy begins with a healthy, responsible, and disciplined economic policy. That is why, we assert that the economic policy has a social orientation. They both go hand in hand and will permit us to create jobs, complete unfinished works, implement priority works, increase credits, and deal first with the basics to later tackle secondary problems.

However, economic progress is not the only and most important accomplishment made during the first five months of my administration, although it may appear as the most impressive achievement. As evidence, it would be enough to mention some accomplishments. This does not constitute or represent a report on the administration.

We distributed 6 million books and school breakfasts for 1 million children, among the student population. Potable water has reached several cities in the country and the large city of Guayaquil, whose water demand has been resolved until the year 2010. This problem finally has been resolved.

Several agreements have been reached with different peasant and Indian organizations. The promotion of foreign investments is a reality, as well as commercial opening and economic integration. We are leading the cause for the defense of free marketing of bananas, and we are reorganizing this sector to better face the crisis. Among other measures, we have called for a summit of Latin American banana-producing countries in Guayaquil on 10 February. We will jointly express to the world the problem created by the EEC.

We are promoting a social tripartite agreement, and we are working on the unification of salaries, without neglect for the time being, the direct and constitutional mechanisms to increase workers' revenues.

We have already begun the much-needed reduction of the state, which will not result in massive dismissals and unemployment. It will, however, adversely affect those who seek to increase their privileges at the expense of others.

The preparatory phase is over. (?We obtained) a $70 million loan, earmarked for health centers in eight provinces that care for 2 million people. We began implementing the generic medicine program and repairing hospital equipment that had been abandoned for years. Since August, we have supplied 604,000 food rations to needy people.

We have coped with the worst drought in recent years, in the past 30 years to be specific. We did it without rationing energy, something that would have cost at least $400 million, as it did last year, but for the exemplary sacrifice and endurance of many, mainly the children. We also took the urgent measures that should have been adopted in the past to repair thermoelectric facilities.

We are maintaining our efforts to increase oil production by 65,000 barrels this year and have reserves of at least 30 percent. We already finished the amendments to the new tourism law, which will be forwarded to Congress soon. This is an essential step to develop the country's true potential in this field and to carry out a series of complementary actions. At the same time, we submitted a request to the Inter-American Development Bank for a loan, which its president already approved, to contract the completion of studies for the coastal highway.

(?We asked) that institution for a $10-million emergency loan to repair highways along the coast and in Loja, and for a $150-million loan to improve the main highway network all over the country. Those loans have been approved and are being processed. After starting the appropriate procedures, we will pay in the days to come 16 billion sucres to contractors, which will bring down the debt we owed them of over 50 billion sucres.

The contract for the [name indistinct] Peripa Hydroelectric Plant will be signed on 22 January. The project, which was poorly handled for eight years, will have undeniable nationwide repercussions. Central Bank of Ecuador contractors have received payments totaling 19 billion sucres. Now we owe them just 3 billion sucres. Most of this debt comes from the past. In the next two years, this bank will increase the number of loans given to the country's municipalities for construction projects. In addition, foreign loans of over $100 million will be used to help the provincial council programs that were not included in the other program.

The Armed Forces comply faithfully with their constitutional duty and also increase their social commitment. We have prudently and firmly maintained order. We

have also fought major crime. We have waged a war without mercy against major crime. My government has begun to develop a frank and friendly dialogue with the Government of Peru, in line with the stance I outlined in my inaugural speech of 10 August and in the speech I delivered later at the UN General Assembly.

The differences that exist between our countries, the different viewpoints, no matter how important they may be, cannot hamper the search for better relations conducted imaginatively and nobly. Our impoverished and needy peoples bequeathed us the historic mission of seeking a just solution and mutual understanding of that which still divides us and of giving vitality to the many things in common that can develop our countries and peoples. True neighbors are those that face difficulties together, look at each other up front, face to face, with respect and understanding, and seek to march together on the path to the future.

This year we will do more in housing than ever before. To prove it now would take all the time I have available. My aides will be in charge, in the days to come, of giving precise details about this and other commitments. I will not tire you by listing all the significant progress achieved. I simply cannot but reiterate it has fallen on me to cope in less than six months with all those things that were postponed for years. That explains the multiplicity and complexity of the demands being made. That is why we must resolve them together. That is why we are inexorably headed toward progress.

My government is working intensely to prepare, organize, and finance direct social programs. We announced toward the end of 1992 that social programs would have a priority in 1993, as we have always stated. It was necessary to reorganize this sector to help make resources reach beneficiaries first. We do not want programs to be used only temporarily. As a result of this commitment, we have created, through the Social Welfare Ministry, the Social Investment Fund, which will allow us to implement complementary development programs at the Housing, Health, Education, and Labor Ministries with the assistance of the World Bank and other organizations.

This mission should not be limited to one of the programs we have already announced. Our intention is to modernize Ecuador. We have to respond to a greater, overall concept in the proper handling of the state. The new course of action, which I talked about and in which we are already moving, stems from what my government calls its development agenda. It is an instrument that represents the commitment of the entire Executive Branch to carry out the government's program.

The development agenda will first deal with fundamental problems, the solution of which is considered to be urgent: unemployment; underemployment; the agriculture sector, its low productivity; mass transportation; housing; scarcity of potable water and sewage systems; poverty; the poor living conditions of Indians; infant mortality and child malnutrition; the improvement of the education system, and the fight against inflation, which must be permanent and has just begun.

I firmly believe—because we just proved it when the Congress completed one of those processes with the Supreme Court—that we can and must reconcile criteria to conduct the great transformations imposed on us by modern times. These transformations are not the responsibility of anyone in particular. I did not make them up. These are the unavoidable calls of history and of our peoples to climb once and for all on board the train of the 21st Century. Legislators, these transformations cannot wait any longer. We still have time to do them, but time is running out. It is not very patriotic to be asking for change only until it starts adversely affecting our own interests. This selfish philosophy causes many of the strikes, which are rejected by a large majority.

We have already been able to organize the state budget with the proper laws. We are about to complete our judicial reforms, as I asked you to do in August 1992, even though it was not for a 120-day period but a 150-day period. I am sure of our joint success in view of the bigger and greater challenges in working to modernize the state. An indispensable requirement in placing the government's infrastructure at the service of Ecuadoran men and women is not subjecting them to their limitations. We must also find means to rationalize—listen to me well, gentlemen legislators—the powers of state labor unions, which soak up and decrease resources in such a way that they nullify vital actions meant to benefit the poorest in our society. We are daily witnesses of their inordinate demands, the disorder caused by those who forget that the resources handled by state institutions do not belong to those who manage them, but to the people.

This must be understood and respected by all, including certain prominent physicians, who have recently become alienated from the Hippocratic Oath. I look forward to tight and firm solidarity and cooperation in our effort to moralize Ecuador, an unyielding goal of our government. I suggest we professionalize the legislative effort, your effort. This can be achieved by the partial reelection of legislators as of 1994, when the supreme and sovereign judge, the Ecuadoran people, will award the best by returning them to the floor, and not those who are unsatisfactory. By this method, the people alone will decide whether or not a deputy is to stay, as it should be in democracy.

I wish to invite you to reflect on the convenience of approving the creation of a large number, an endless number, of cantons, thus burdening the resources of others. They cannot be administered effectively. The 15 cantons recently created are beginning their work with very scarce resources to face the aspirations of their constituents, and thus making immediate demands on the national economy. Likewise, I call on you to respect our ecological wealth as one of the nation's main goals. This issue is a vital consideration of this administration

and should be the same for future administrations. To face this and other demands on a responsible and modern government, I will periodically and harmoniously make several proposals and present various initiatives before the Congress this year. It is not necessary to tell you the details or number at this time, but among the most prominent are the laws that will govern customs, the stock exchange, privatization, and salaries.

I will not claim each coordinate step we take together toward state reform as an accomplishment of my own, neither do I see it as such. Public opinion and history will highlight this effort as a collective, unified, and unselfish contribution to Ecuador's definitive recovery. Let us not think of who will be credited and benefit from this or that idea. Let us think of who will be saved by it, who will have a better future, who will achieve a much better standard of living.

I am optimistic about the prospects for a national understanding about this new course. I am also aware that to reach our destination, the will of the Executive Branch and the legislators alone is not enough. We need the consent, perseverance, and patriotism of many groups, on whom I call to now vitalize this slow but sure agreement process. The media, especially, will play a definitive role in this process. It is their credibility and responsibility that will encourage the people to become active participants, not mere spectators, in the mission of rescuing Ecuador.

I have been faced with what had previously been abandoned or set aside. I have accepted that challenge, which will mean constant anxiety and occasional criticism. This is the time for leaders who refuse to govern for our parties, our tranquillity, our political descendants, our groups, or our egos. This is the time for leaders who will govern for our country. I am doing just that, and I will continue to do so with confidence in your support, understanding, and concurrence. The time to harvest [word indistinct] has come, but without neglecting to sow new seeds, so we may continue to reap the fruits our people need and deserve. It is time for solidarity.

This is why I see the wave of conflicts as a constant call for solutions and I compare this temporary period of unrest to the time of inevitable pain following any surgery, which will lead to total and complete recovery, to true and permanent progress. My unbending Christian faith moves me to carry this burden with joy. I must thank you and the lord for the opportunity that crisis brings to strengthen by resolve through them. I am sure of final victory. Do not doubt, then, my determination to attain it. May there be no doubt about the ever so bright light that we can already see at the end of the tunnel. The time has passed when we had to balance the needs of the people against the little resources available. Now our priorities demand an active show of solidarity from all to face our reality.

This is my mission. This is also your mission, gentlemen legislators. I make this call as 1993 begins, when we cannot just be satisfied, my fellow citizens, with wishing each other a happy new year. I hereby propose, gentlemen legislators, that we work together as one to attain this goal. Our country so demands it, gentlemen legislators. [applause]

Paraguay

Rodriguez: Not 'Appropriate' Time for Dialogue

PY2201163393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 22 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez ruled out the possibility that Armed Forces members would participate in a dialogue with civilians because, in his estimation, "this is not the most appropriate time." Rodriguez advocated that the feuding factions within the ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party]—[Juan Carlos] Wasmosy and [Luis Maria] Argana—work out a "political compromise" in order to unify the party. He made it clear that such a "compromise" should be fair and just. Rodriguez does not believe the ANR will be unable to participate in the 9 May elections for lack of a presidential candidate. "That is a responsibility that those presidential hopefuls will have to shoulder," he said, alluding to Wasmosy and Argana.

Regarding the dialogue between civilians and the military, Rodriguez said this is not the most appropriate time to talk about it. He recalled that politicians did not invite the military to take part in the National Constituent Assembly. Rodriguez complained that "the Armed Forces were excluded from the National Constituent Assembly, when they also could have taken part in drafting the Constitution." He subsequently asked: "Why is it that now they bring up the subject of dialogue between civilians and the military?" thus alluding to Dr. [Domingo] Laino's proposal. In the past, Army officers took the initiative in proposing a dialogue with other representative groups but it failed.

Rodriguez further stated that "nowadays, the Armed Forces have become the zealous guardians of freedom and democracy, which they have initiated for the Paraguayan people. Hence, we are the ones who are most interested in bringing this transition to a successful end, and I believe the transition to democracy will be fully consolidated on 9 May with the elections." Rodriguez made this statement when commenting on the meeting he had with Major General Richard F. Timmons, commander of the U.S. Army Southern Command, and Jon Glassman, U.S. ambassador to Paraguay. Rodriguez said Timmons came to Paraguay because he was "interested in learning about the Armed Forces' role in this transitional stage in the history of our country—the transition to democracy."

Rodriguez confirmed that general elections will be held on 9 May and asserted that he will hand over power to an elected president on 15 August.

Rodriguez stated that it is not incumbent upon him to mediate in the ANR crisis. He pointed out that "we set the table for politicians. We gave them freedom and peace so they can negotiate." He added that the conflict confronting the ANR will not prevent the elections from being held on 9 May, because the presidential hopefuls (Wasmosy and Argana) will "surely reach agreement by resorting to compromise and perhaps making concessions." Rodriguez was optimistic about the possibility that "both factions will reach an equitable solution to the conflict, and effect the unification of the party so they can put up an effective struggle against the other movements, political parties, and independent candidates. Only by working out a compromise solution will they be certain that they can do it. That is what is expected of them."

Communists Criticize Rodriguez, Military

PY2101232093 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] The Regional Committee (capital) of the Independent Communist Party of Paraguay [PCI] has issued a communique to express its position on the country's current political situation. It states that "the military regime headed by General Rodriguez has deliberately caused obstacles in the transition process."

The PCI says: "Nobody doubts that the military regime has ruled the country for more than half a century."

The communique says that "since 1954 the Colorado Party has been unable to achieve the internal peace and democracy to freely elect its leaders without the pressures exerted by the generals on duty: under Stroessner in the past, and currently under Rodriguez."

The PCI thinks that "the internal crisis in the National Republican Association [Colorado Party] has no other purpose but to guarantee the use and abuse of power by the Armed Forces leadership, which has been installed in the country since 1947."

The communique states: "A group of commanders, led by the president of the Republic, is concerned because their plan to be reelected failed during the Constituent Assembly, thanks to the courage of the Colorado Party autonomous faction."

It says that therefore "the power of the military men, who serve the cause of foreign Yankee-Brazilian imperialist intervention, has turned to the offensive. The Armed Forces want to install an heir in the new government, at all costs. They have already seized the leadership of the party, in an election held with greater than 60 percent absenteeism."

Argentina Lifts Prohibition on Food Products

PY2201160593 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 10

[Excerpt] The Argentine Government has lifted the measure that prohibited the importation of fresh food products from countries not affected by cholera. Therefore, the export of national fruits and vegetables will be normalized, according to an official Argentine Embassy communique that was sent to the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry this morning.

Antonio Felix Lopez, Foreign Ministry vice minister of economic relations, said in this regard that our country is free from cholera; therefore, it benefits from the Argentine measure.

He added that despite this information, the Foreign Ministry is making the appropriate consultations to get more complete information on the official statement released by the Argentine Embassy.

Replying to a question, Lopez said the information received does not explain why the prohibition was lifted. He added: "The only thing it says is that the restrictive measures have been lifted and that they have been in force in the Argentine customs houses since yesterday afternoon." [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Rojas Receives Disciplinary Sanction

PY2101215893 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] DEM [from the General Staff School] Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas has been sentenced to 46 days' imprisonment at the Pena Hermosa military prison. The disciplinary sanction is part of a ruling by JM [Military Justice] Judge Colonel Venancio Roman of the First Military Court, despite the fact that he was found to be innocent and was acquitted of the charges of slander filed against him by various generals.

Col. Gonzalez Rojas' lawyers were notified of the decision yesterday afternoon. They now have three days to appeal the decision.

The judge decided: "1. To acquit DEM Col. Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas of all charges in the case filed against him for aggravated slander at the 4th Infantry Division. 2. To sentence Col. Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas to 90 days' imprisonment at the Pena Hermosa military prison for disciplinary reasons, understanding that Col. Gonzalez Rojas has already served 44 days in prison, and must still serve 46 days."

After learning of the decision, Col. Gonzalez Rojas said he was surprised at the uncommon decision acquitting him on the one hand but sentencing him to prison on the other.

Gonzalez said that he would discuss the matter in the morning with his lawyers, headed by Hermes Rafael Saguier, and will appeal the sentence in the civil courts.

"I do not think the Military Tribunal is the appropriate place to make an appeal, as it lacks independence in being directly subordinate to the commander in chief," Gonzalez Rojas said.

The colonel added that he will request his retirement.

Some months ago, Gonzalez Rojas reported the involvement of various high-ranking military officers in the trafficking of stolen cars through the Chaco region to Bolivia, and as a consequence was accused of slander at the military courts by various generals who were cited as accomplices of the car traffickers.

Peru

American Airlines Plane Shot at in Lima

PA2201133793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1243 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Walter Samuel Neira from Jorge Chavez International Airport, Lima—live]

[Text] An American Airlines A300 Airbus was shot at this morning at Jorge Chavez International Airport. The plane had just landed and was taxiing on the runway. The bullet hit the fuselage. The A300 airbus is now parked and is being inspected by security personnel.

Meanwhile, marines have heightened security measures around Jorge Chavez Airport. All incoming traffic is being checked.

[Unidentified station announcer] Excuse me, Samuel. The Airbus you are referring to obviously is a passenger plane.

[Neira] Yes, it is a passenger plane and it was arriving from Miami.

[Announcer] Has the Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation [Corpac] issued a statement on this?

[Neira] No, they have not. There is total silence surrounding this incident. A meeting has been scheduled between high-ranking officials from American Airlines and Corpac officials. They are going to discuss what happened and issue a statement.

[Announcer] Walter Samuel, are police, security officials, and Corpac officials on the scene?

[Neira] Yes, there is strong security here. From where we are, we can see Corpac officials meeting with soldiers allegedly involved in this incident. [sentence as heard]

[Announcer] In conclusion, does this mean that American Airlines flights have been canceled for 22 January?

[Neira] No. We can inform you that the scheduled flights have not been canceled. A flight for Miami is ready for departure. They only are waiting for a few more passengers to board the plane.

Two Guards Die in Attack on Coca Cola Plant

PA2201143893 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Report by Cesar Lengo]

[Text] A car bomb exploded early on 22 January at the Coca Cola Bottling Company, located in block 11 of Colonial Avenue in Lima, killing two and causing heavy property damage. Four terrorists fired rifles at the security guard in the post facing Ecuador Road and then abandoned a van with license plate RQ-9796.

The van, which was loaded with 300 kg of dynamite and ANFO [ammonium nitrate fuel oil], exploded after the terrorists fled in a white Toyota with no license plate. The explosion also injured a security guard of the Lima Electric Power Enterprise [Electrolima] who was at a guard post. The man was identified as 26-year old Juan Luna Balbas. Police took him to Loaiza Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Four vehicles in the company parking lot were completely destroyed. One of them was engulfed in flames, preventing the rescue of the body of 24-year old guard Cesar Ayala, who was riddled with bullets by the terrorists. The body of the security guard was later recovered. Firefighters controlled the fire and cleared up the area. Two soft drink delivery trucks were also damaged. A two-story building housing management and administrative personnel as well as the back wall of Electrolima were partially damaged.

The explosion of the van, which was stolen in Comas District, caused a 1.5 meter hole. Debris was spread 10 meters from the site. Two residences were affected by the shockwave.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified resident] There was a horrible cross fire. I was quite frightened. We were in the middle of the cross fire. I told my children to shut the windows. Two vehicles were on fire.

[Unidentified Reporter] How many residences were affected?

[Resident] I heard that my neighbors were injured and taken to the hospital. Thank God we are alright. [end recording]

Government Extends State of Emergency

PA2201152993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1456 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency in Lima Department and Callao Constitutional Province for 60 days. According to the decree published in the official gazette, the measure was adopted because terrorist actions continue and to control and maintain public order.

Chile, Peru Issue Joint Communique

PY2201020093 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p A6

["Text" of joint communique issued by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada in Santiago on 8 January]

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente Raygada, who is also the president of the Council of Ministers, made an official visit to Chile on 6-8 January at the invitation of Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma. The illustrious visitor held a special audience with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

De la Puente was accompanied by an important entourage which included the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the interior, economy, integration, tourism, and international economic negotiations vice ministers, the National Culture Institute director, the air and maritime transport directors, and various businessmen, who held mutual fruitful meetings with Chilean Government officials.

In an atmosphere of understanding and cooperative spirit, the two foreign ministers analyzed bilateral relations, outlined major issues of common interest, and agreed on the bilateral agenda for 1993.

The two ministers reached the following agreements:

—Resume conversations aimed at implementing the pending clauses of the Lima Treaty signed in 1929 and its Complementary Protocol. To this end they decided to appoint two commissions comprised of two members each. These commissions will have 60 days to present their proposals to the two Foreign Ministry top officials.

—Create a Mixed Commission on Economy and Commerce between Chile and Peru, through the signing of a memorandum of understanding on this date aimed at strengthening economic relations, expanding trade, and developing the bilateral economy.

—Hold the third meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Mechanism in March, with the participation of the Chilean Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Peruvian vice foreign minister.

—Hold the fifth meeting of the Mixed Commission of Limits on 16-19 March. This commission will hold continuous meetings.

—Create the Mixed Chilean-Peruvian Commission of Friendship and Border Cooperation, which will replace the Mixed Border Subcommission. The new commission will be granted an ample jurisdiction so that it can act in keeping with the new border demands.

—Update the Agreement on Border Police between Chile and Peru signed in 1930, and promote bilateral cooperation among the police institutions.

—Sponsor a meeting of the Mixed Subcommission on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in the city of Tacna in May.

—They agreed on the need to sign an Air Transportation Agreement aimed at improving the bilateral air transportation system on a stable, open, and competitive basis, while committing themselves to exchanging the texts of the draft agreements as soon as possible. They also agreed on the need to develop regional routes open to companies from both countries. In this regard they agreed to hold a consultative meeting during the first half of 1993.

—They confirmed with satisfaction the smooth development of the annual meetings between the Chilean and Peruvian Armed Forces commanders, as they contribute to creating an atmosphere of mutual confidence. The next meeting will be held in Santiago in August 1993.

—Create a Cultural-Educational Mixed Commission to study and to implement a general program of cooperation in those areas, to hold its first meeting next May in Lima. The commission will also establish a program of activities advocating greater cultural and educational relations. The Chilean Government thanked the Peruvian foreign minister for bringing the watercolor paintings by liberator Bernardo O'Higgins, of great value, to be exhibited in the National Museum of History for the next 90 days.

With the purpose of strengthening bilateral economic relations within the context of a market economy, and to ensure the free flow of capital goods, investments, services, information, and technology as well as nondiscriminatory trade, they also agreed to:

1. Continue with the negotiations aimed at signing as soon as possible an agreement on promotion and reciprocal protection of investments.

2. Support the efforts being made by the respective energy organizations of the two countries in the field electricity interconnection.

3. Update technical and scientific cooperation on the basis of a project submitted by Chile.

4. Continue promoting contacts between the business organizations of the two countries, providing greater support for the development of these links to facilitate greater bilateral economic, commercial, and financial relations.

During the work sessions the two foreign ministers exchanged points of view on the best ways to strengthen cooperation in different areas. In this regard they agreed on the importance of holding the fourth meeting of foreign ministers of the country members of the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS) in Lima, during the first week of March 1993, to reform, modernize, and project the CPPS, and to reaffirm its importance as a regional organization in promoting maritime policies for

the conservation and protection of marine resources. The Chilean Government also accepted the initiative to hold a preparatory meeting, and suggested that the meeting be held in Santiago during the first half of February 1993. This suggestion was approved by the Peruvian delegation, which promised to carry out joint negotiations to this purpose at the foreign ministries of Colombia and Ecuador.

They also expressed their government's complete support for holding, next April, the Second Space Conference of the Americas. In 1995 they will host the World Summit on Social Development and the Intergovernmental Conference on Fishing of Related Species and High Migration on the High Seas.

The Peruvian foreign minister also showed interest in the Chilean initiative to negotiate a technical and scientific cooperation agreement for the development of the Andean people and the protection of South American members of the Camelidae family. He promised to study the initiative.

In conclusion Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, conveyed on behalf of the delegation and himself to Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma his appeciation for the hospitality and attention received during the visit to Santiago. He also indicated the highly positive meaning of the contacts and meetings held. He extended an invitation to the Chilean foreign minister to make an official visit to Peru at a future date, an invitation that the minister was pleased to accept.

Payment of Arrears to Organizations Ordered

PY2101230693 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 7 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The Peruvian Government has approved a schedule for paying its arrears with international organizations from the years 1986 through 1992. The amount involved totals $4,140,302.98 according to what is established in Law 25388, Article 253 regulating the public administration's budget for the 1992 fiscal year.

The decision was made official through Decree 139-92-EF, which is published in our legal supplement today and establishes priorities for paying Peruvian arrears with various international organizations in accordance with the public treasury's abilities.

A total of 25 organizations are included in the schedule. Among the most important are GATT, the United Nations, the Cartagena Agreement Board (Junac), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Hipolito Unanue Agreement, and the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA).

The exchange rate used for the calculations in new soles is 1.65. If the exchange rate is higher at the time of the payment operation, the amount in dollars will be reduced. If the rate is lower the additional funds will be used to pay other international debts. This will be coordinated with the Economy and Finance Ministry and the Foreign Ministry.

Armed Forces Officers Request Salary Increase

PY2101211893 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 9 Jan 93 p A4

[Text] Fernando Olivera Vega, Independent Moralization Front (FIM) leader and representative, said yesterday that the Armed Forces' corps of high-ranking military officers had asked the government to grant them a 300 percent salary increase this year, as opposed to the 50 percent increase that is contemplated in the 1993 budget.

Olivera said the request was one of the reasons behind former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona's resignation. Bolona had allegedly told the government that such an increase would cause a $250 million deficit in the economic program.

Olivera said the report must be confirmed by Congress, and asked the government to sent a copy of the Armed Forces payroll to the legislative branch so that it can analyze it behind closed doors if necessary.

Uruguay

Police Conflict Not Acceptable to Government

PY2101155593 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The National Police Family Civilian Association of Maldonado last night decided against joining a protest march in Maldonado Department because it contradicts the tenets that this organization announced in the past.

Maldonado Police Chief Miguel Angel Galan has said that [Police spokeswoman] Sandra Dodera does not know where she stands. He disagrees with a communique issued on 19 January by the National Police Family Civilian Association of Maldonado, calling a march this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle yesterday reviewed with the defense minister and the commanders-in-chief of the three Armed Forces branches alternatives to preserve public security in case of more police rallies.

Lacalle met for one hour with Defense Minister Mariano Brito; Lieutenant General Juan Rebollo, the Army commander-in-chief; Aviation General Carlos Pache, the Air Force commander-in-chief; and Vice Admiral James Coates, the Navy commander-in-chief.

In brief remarks after the meeting, the defense minister reported that they discussed issues directly linked to the Defense Ministry and other issues of general interest.

The message was clear and blunt. The minister hinted at the police march scheduled for this afternoon and at the various rallies that could be under way.

According to government sources, the government will not accept any more protest rallies by the police like those held in late 1992. Various measures to preserve public order and security are being studied.

Although no one confirmed it, government circles did not rule out the possibility that the government might resort to emergency security measures and use the Armed Forces to control any outbreak of protests and to nip the growing police uneasiness in the bud.

Sandra Dodera, the National Police Family Civilian Association spokeswoman, had to move from the second house that she has occupied since the November police rally, after receiving two more death threats.

Her whereabouts are unknown, although she is being guarded by members of the National Police Family Civilian Association. Dodera said she received two anonymous telephone calls, threatening her with death. The appropriate report was filed at the 11th Police Precinct. [passage omitted]

Lacalle Meets with Vice President Aguirre

PY2101154593 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] President of the Republic Luis Alberto Lacalle and Vice President Gonzalo Aguirre took a step toward relaxing their relations yesterday by meeting at the official residence of (?Suarez Silvero).

Lacalle and Aguirre met at 1830 and talked for one hour, after which the vice president left by one of the side doors.

Lacalle later travelled, as scheduled, to Punta del Este from where he will return today. Lacalle may meet with [National Rocha Movement] Senator Carlos Julio Pereyra during the next few hours, although last night the latter still had not [words indistinct].

These meetings (?contribute to the talks between Colorado Party) and Blanco Party members, which have been suspended since 21 December.

Relations between Lacalle, Aguirre, and Pereyra deteriorated over demands for changes in the economic policy and in the economic team made by the vice president and by National Rocha Movement leader Carlos Julio Pereyra.

Venezuela

Minister on Economic Growth, Oil Prices

PA2201044593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Coordination and Planning Minister Ricardo Haussman has announced that in spite of the drop in oil and metal prices and a drop in exports, Venezuela's economic growth in 1993 will be the same as 1992.

Haussman, who was invited as a speaker at the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said this will not be a particularly good year for our country. He noted, however, there may be surprises—as last year—because in spite of all our problems, our economic growth was the largest in Latin America, surpassing the executive branch's expectations.

Haussman said one objective of this government, in addition to getting its tax bill approved, is privatization, which requires the approval of a bill by the National Congress.

Haussman said foreign investors are still interested in our country because they have become immune to headlines and reports. He said that much work will be necessary in the future.

[Begin Haussman recording] This is not a matter of denying our problems, but a matter of knowing that we are going to resolve them. This year's oil situation looks difficult. Prices have dropped markedly. There is a problem posed by significant oil production increases in Iran and Kuwait and, to a lesser extent, in Saudi Arabia. This has weakened the market situation. [end recording]

Haussman said the government hopes its tax bill will be approved. He noted, however, if it is not approved, it will not be a catastrophe.